DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

INDEX BUREAU

767.68/682

SEE 868.00/626 FOR # 1218

FROM Greece (Skinner) DATED Jan.15, 1930.

TO

NAME

1—1127

REGARDING:

conversation with Mr. George Streit in which he touched on the relations between Greece and Turkey.

mb/

No. 1818

Athens, January 15, 1930.

Subject: Politics in the Near East.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

General George Kondylis has returned to Athens. Time will tell whether his return to Greece is an event of considerable importance or whether at an early date he will join General Pangalos in oblivion. When I had the honor on August 1st, 1928, to transmit a short biography of this personage, he was in Paris "applying himself to the study of history and politics in an endeavor to gain what was denied to him in early education."

Although by profession a soldier, General Kondylis had, in the past, shown considerable political acumen. In 1924, during a controversy between Mr. Venizelos and the Republican Union faction of Mr. Papanastasiou over the method of establishing the Republic, General Kondylis had aligned himself

against

against Mr. Venizelos; and his articles to the Press were written with such clarity of thought, logic, and tact that even those who disagreed with him were forced to admit that here was a new politician who, despite his military antecedents, would be heard from in the future. This impression was considerably strengthened by the way in which he conducted himself after overthrowing General Pangalos. Not only did he hold general elections and then give up the reins of power to a Constitutional Government the existence of which he had made possible, but he even went so far as to disband his own party before the elections in order to eliminate any suspicion that the elections would not be honestly conducted. In the last general elections, Mr. Venizelos, by way of showing his esteem for General Kondylis, was much more generous in offering to the General's small, reorganized party places on the Venizelist tickets in various districts of the country, than he was to the supposedly more serious parties of Mr. Papanastasiou and Mr. Michalakopoulos. Since the elections, General Kondylis' party had been represented by at least one member in all the Cabinets of Mr. Venizelos.

It was in consideration of these facts, together with the well known fact that General Kondylis had retained some very influential friendships in the Army, that the belief was beginning to take root in Greek political circles - and a statement to this effect was incorporated in the General's biography forwarded to the Department - that he was a coming man in Greece.

It has

It has been a matter of general disappointment among thoughtful people disposed to think well of General Kondylis that he has proved himself unable to restrain himself and has returned to Greece to fulminate rather obscurely against the Government. It is said that he surrounds himself with portraits of Napoleon in every conceivable attitude, and possibly, like other dictators in the past, dreams of himself as a modern Bonaparte. From afar, he issued criticisms of the Government of Mr. Venizelos, so that his representatives in the Cabinet deemed themselves obliged, according to the political tenets which prevail here, to give up their portfolios, and now, having himself returned, he announces in vague terms that he dislikes the policy of the Government, that there are many people in Greece who are crying for bread and too many others who have too much. Possibly he supposed that these pronouncements would be received with outbursts of enthusiasm, but they seem to leave the public cold. Prominent Venizelists tell me that there is nothing to fear from General Kondylis, that he has no following, and that Greeks in general are satisfied that Mr. Venizelos is conducting the affairs of the country with prudence and success, that this is no time for warrior statesmen.

I had last night a long conversation with Mr. George Streit, probably the most distinguished, and certainly the most intellectual, member of the Royalist group, a former Minister in the time of King Constantine, and an eminent constitutional lawyer, who said the same things. I attach considerable importance to Mr. Streit's comments upon the current situation. Passing from a

<u>discussion</u>

discussion of General Kondylis, he remarked that while his own views as a Royalist had undergone no modification, there was a moment for everything and that Greece could afford no experiments just now - she must have an opportunity to recuperate. He paid high tribute to the high qualities of Mr. Venizelos and said that every Greek in his right mind must hope that he would be able to carry through his plan of building up the country economically, restoring sound administrative methods in the Departments (which he thought the most important matter now before the Government) and clearing up such remaining external questions as are unsettled. He gave me to understand that the Royalist Opposition would uphold Mr. Venizelos and confine its criticism to such advice as might be helpful in securing the most useful legislation. While Mr. Streit maintained his monarchical views, still it seemed to me that he was inclined to keep them in the background, and perhaps disposed to accept the Republic and give it a chance to demonstrate its practicability before bothering about a Restoration.

Mr. Streit also adverted during our talk to the great Greek adventure and disaster in Asia Minor. He thought there never had been any possibility that Greece could maintain herself permanently in Asia Minor against the Turks, and that his people were much happier within their present political boundaries than would have been the case even had the Asia Minor affair temporarily turned out successfully; he was quite convinced that if the Italians should ever undertake to set up a sphere of political influence in Asia Minor, they would be unable to remain there very long.

"And

"And will the modern Turkish State develop and succeed?" I inquired.

"No," he replied. "Probably the present Government will go on for a considerable time under the present leadership, but in the end it will decline in authority because the Turks have excluded the elements in their population with whose co-operation only, real success could have been brought about."

Developing this thought more extensively, he predicted that after the Turks had struggled for some years more with their new nationalism, and had convinced themselves of the impossibility of getting their trade and commerce and general interests on a satisfactory footing, they would call back to their aid the Greek families with whom they had worked in the past when Constantinople had been great and powerful, and the country commercially prosperous. Now that the Greeks had genuinely given up any thought of a Turkish conquest, he believed that the Turks, before any great length of time, would welcome their return. Just how that would come about he could not foresee. After all, there was an enormous infiltration of Greek blood in the Turkish population, arising out of harem life, and the Greeks were the only European people who understood the Turkish mentality, and possessed the special talent necessary to work with them practically, and who were psychologically capable of accepting the peculiar status which prevailed as between Greeks and Turks before the revolutionary movement began.

Looking into a more distant future, Mr. Streit foresaw the advance of Hellenism and in a way its real supremacy in Turkey, not as a directly governing influence, but as an intellectual and moral leaven - in fact, the bringing about of the situation in the old Roman times when the Roman State was everything, politically, but when the Roman, personally, made pilgrimages to Athens to sit at the feet of the philosophers and teachers of the day.

Just at the moment, Greece was passing through something of a financial crisis, a crisis which some foolish people sought to place upon the door-step of the Government, but which in reality was a business-man's crisis, due to over-speculation, the granting of excessive credits, unreasonable competition between banking houses and the like. This idea has been corroborated to me by local bankers themselves. They made a good deal of money while Exchange was fluctuating violently. They granted credits without investigation, right and left, some individual concerns going from one bank to another and obtaining credits in each one without due regard to the business as a whole. Then came a number of failures, and now wise heads are being put together and the necessary remedial measures are being applied. It is probable that very depressed business conditions will prevail yet, for a considerable time, but there is every reason to suppose that satisfactory conditions will emerge and that more wholesome methods of commercial financing will be established.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

1 copy to Constantinople (Signed) Robert P. Skinner
1 " " E.I.C., Paris

RPS/cwf

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 341.1141 Am 3/a FOR tel #59 4pm

767.68/683

FROM Turkey ( ) DATED Oct.1, 1930

NAME

TO

1—1127

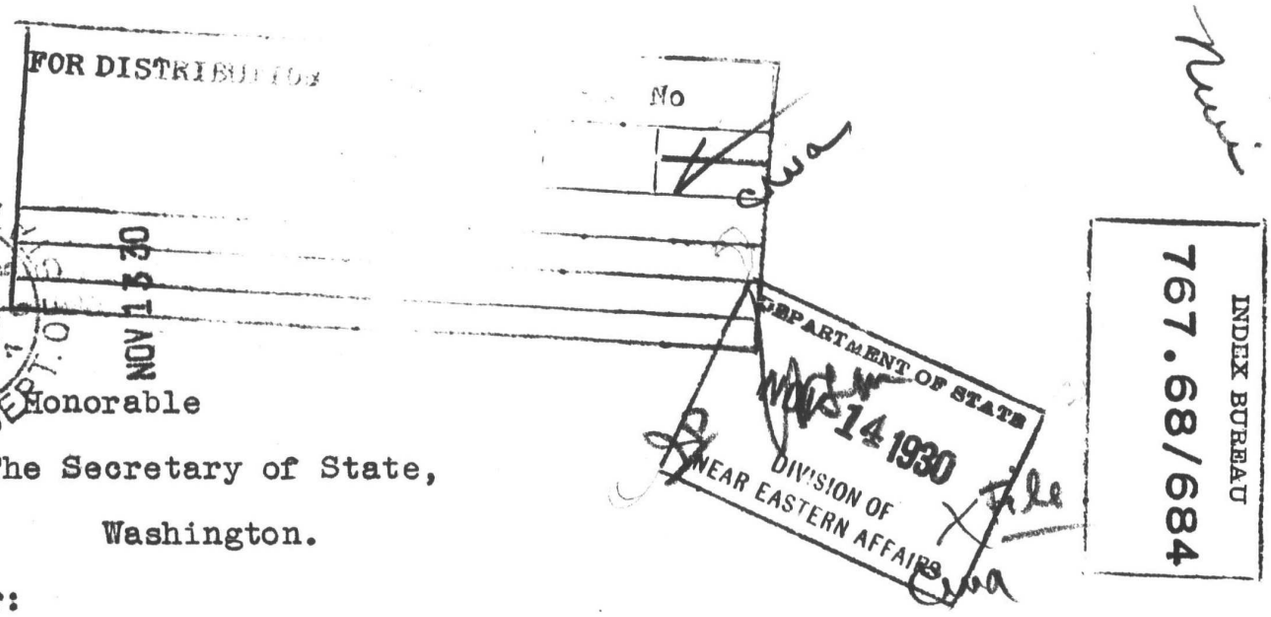
REGARDING: Relations between Turkey and Greece.

Litigation between Guardian Insurance Company,Ltd., amd American Tobacco Company,Inc., in London,to recover insurance on property destroyed by fire of 1922 in Smyrna - desires to have transcripts of evidence of the first and ninth days of the trial and if possible copies of the evidence taken on commission which was presented to the Court and does not appear in oral testimony.

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Athens, October 25, 1930.

No. 151

Subject: Greco-Turkish relations - the beginning of a new era.



The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

767.68

The Prime Minister, Mr. Venizelos, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr.Michalakopoulos, their wives, and a small suite of secretaries, left Athens at nine o'clock today for Angora, there to proceed to the signing of a treaty of friendship and arbitration, a commercial and consular convention, and (probably) a treaty concerning naval forces. As to this last, it will set forth the unwisdom of naval competition and will engage the two governments to inform each other six months before contracting for any war vessel, so that the effect of such a contract may be examined and a state of practical parity maintained. However, it is by the presence of these Greek statesmen in Turkey, rather than by definite political acts, that it is intended to indicate that a new day has dawned in the relations between the two countries. The party left on a Greek cruiser for the port of Haidar Pasha (Constantinople), where a special train will be in waiting, on which the journey will be continued to Angora.

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There was some talk when this matter was under discussion of complete avoidance of Constantinople. Mr. Venizelos allowed it to be known that he could not traverse Constantinople without calling upon the Oecumenical Patriarch, and if he did so he feared that some misunderstanding might arise which he intended to prevent by not going to Constantinople at all. Thereupon the Turkish Government sent him a friendly communication saying that a visit to the Patriarch would be a natural thing and that there was no need of remaining away from Constantinople on that account. So it has been arranged that on the Prime Minister's return from Angora he will pause at Constantinople and visit the Phanar.

At Angora, no doubt, the usual ceremonial dinners and receptions will take place. Much will be said in the speeches about the main treaty, which probably resembles all the other treaties of the same sort from Locarno down to the present time. Following the going into effect of the various treaties, an effort will be made to raise the interdiction upon the temporary visits of Greeks who desire to proceed to Constantinople. Possibly the Turkish Government may accede graciously to a suggestion of this kind.

But there is more in this official journey to Angora than will be revealed in formal texts and the signing of formal documents and the granting of visas. Mr. Venizelos knew before undertaking the journey that it would make some

<u>of his</u>

of his fellow citizens unhappy and that many might even protest. One newspaper which is opposed to him has already given up three columns to manifesting its "affliction because of the humiliation and moral weakness to which he will subject Greece in going to Angora, where the bitterest of souvenirs await him." Mr. Michalakopoulos, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has felt called upon to issue an apologia in which he says that the Greeks must extirpate "from their souls the old inveterate sentiments and conceive fully the importance of this new turn in the relations between Greece and Turkey." He concludes:

> "According to Mr. Venizelos' admirable image, the litigation engaged in since long centuries between the Greeks and the Turks comes to an end. The ancient adversaries renounce definitely the right of revision. They extend their hands for a new collaboration."

One of Mr. Venizelos' most distinguished adherents said to me that the step now being taken was necessary for the Near East and that only Mr. Venizelos, with his enormous popularity and great authority, was strong enough to take it, - any smaller man might end his public career in doing so. He possesses, as another of his most fervent admirers has said, "the firmness, even the rudeness, not to hesitate to make known disagreeable truths." To this end, he is willing, if it must be,"to alienate the sympathies of the section of the population most devoted to him, the refugees, who, hitherto, have been unshakable in their support." Western people can scarcely comprehend how difficult it is for the Greeks to see their chief of Government go to Turkey. Five hundred years ago, Constantinople fell and with it came the end of the Hellenic Empire. Five

hundred

Five hundred years of bondage followed, then a feeble restoration to national life in 1830, then one hundred years of constant strife during which not once did the head of the new Greek State go to Turkey. At length the Treaty of Lausanne settled the territorial status of both nations; Greece gave up all thought of Eastern Thrace and Asia Minor; Turkey abandoned the islands that she claimed and occupied up to 1913. Both States have gathered into their own territory the great mass of their respective nationals. Thus what was once sentimentally impossible becomes today both natural and necessary.

Mr. Venizelos is not only a courageous man, he is also a wise man - he is looking into the far distant future, to a culmination of which he cannot hope to be a personal witness. He is laying the foundation for a new order in the Near East - not of a new Byzantium, a conception which may have been in his mind at one time, but a working federation of the Balkan States - which though an inexact geographical expression, includes in practice modern Turkey and the five Southeastern European States. The coming in of Turkey is vital to the development of this plan. We saw some evidence of all this during the Balkan Conference in Athens two weeks ago. Mr. Venizelos was far in the background - apart from the social attentions which, as Prime Minister, he was compelled to extend, he was rarely heard from, but his was always the master mind causing others to do his bidding. The Conference went off very well indeed, much better than was expected. An amusing

side-

side-light: In private conversations during the concluding cheerful days of the Conference, those in attendance, as they pictured the coming federation, sometimes spoke lightly of "our Western Empire, as opposed to which we have now" the Great Idea."

This is not all that takes Mr. Venizelos to Angora, a tiresome journey in itself. We Americans tried to make it easier by offering him the use of two new Ford planes with accommodation for 20 people and all their belongings. I sent him a note on the subject on behalf of the Ford Company, assuring him that he would make the journey by air in five hours (instead of three days by sea and rail) and received an appreciative reply - declining the offer. But, to return to the other matter that takes him to Angora: Greece is possessed of a prolific population. America until lately has absorbed the surplus, and now new avenues of employment must somehow be found. Mr. Venizelos hopes to batter down the conditions which keep Greeks out of Turkey, especially in the region around Smyrna. He will say nothing of this now - he is too shrewd for that - but it is in his mind. This may seem a strange project considering that the recently acquired homogeneous character of the two populations has been one of the important elements in making the recent rapprochement possible. But what else can be done with a superabundant population? Besides, it was territorial projects, mostly, that disturbed Greco-Turkish relations in the past. Actually, the two races got on quite well together. As Ismet Pasha remarked in his letter to the Association of Invalid Greek War Veterans, " a long tradition has created bonds of sympathy between the two races which nothing has been able to destroy totally."

So now

So now we see that the first practical move following the political agreement is to be a request for the easing up of the requirements which prevent the Greeks from making temporary visits to Turkey, and since the political situation has cleared and an atmosphere of good-will been generated, there is hope (today it is only a hope) that Turkey will one day welcome back gradually but definitely the elements that left Asia Minor eight years ago under tragic circumstances. Why not? The Turkish experiment, so we are all led to believe, is failing on its commercial and industrial side, because of the absence of experienced minds and industrious hands. Constantinople and Smyrna are dead cities. I am told that even now, noiselessly, a good many Greeks have filtered back (one does not know how) and when they are put at the head of small businesses that have been decaying these last half-dozen years, some semblance of prosperity returns. Only the Greeks among the European races understand the Turks, the habit of long centuries of life in common. Turkey is a sparsely settled country and the Turks themselves are thought to be discouraged over their effort to operate unaided a machine that they do not understand.

At all events, the going of Mr. Venizelos to Angora is a courageous step, courageous as respects his relations with his own people, courageous as a manifestation of political energy. It is the move of a statesman of the first order, one who has no time to waste upon a dead past and who sees a great future, not merely for the Greek nation, but for the people of the Near East upon whom he looks as one people.

The treaties to be signed at Angora are not yet available, and probably the texts will reach the Department from Turkey before I can obtain them here. Apparently, in the commercial provisions, Greece obtains some special advantages; for example, it is said that the Turks have undertaken that 40% of the cognac imported into Turkey shall be imported from this country. If there are any other quota arrangements of this kind, we may feel more than casual interest in the details.

Respectfully yours,

Robert P. Skinner.

Copy to E.I.C., Paris.

RPS/cwf

PM RECD

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ankara, November 3, 1930.

No. 1151

NOV 19 30

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 20 1930
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

FOR DISTRIBUTION - CHECK

	Yes	No
To the Field		✓
In U. S. A.		✓

INDEX BUREAU
767.68/685

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

Mr. Venizelos has been in Ankara. The Greek cruiser ELLI anchored off Haidar Pasha and the Prime Minister of Greece boarded a special train bound for the capital. He was accompanied by Mme. Venizelos, Mr. and Mme. Michalacopoulos and the proper sort of suite. The police arrangements were not adequate and there was a good deal of crowding and rather too much enthusiasm from the assembled Greeks of Istanbul. Some of those in the entourage of Mr. Venizelos thought it wise to shout "Zito Mustafa Kemal". The journey, so far as is known, was uneventful although

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one wonders what were the thoughts of Mr. Venizelos when his train reached Polatli - the furthest point of the advance of the Greek army in 1921. Whatever his thoughts may have been he was beaming when he got out at the station at Ankara. It was the third day of a dust storm, but Ankara's officialdom was undaunted. The secretaries of the Protocol Department in real white spats were everywhere. The world weary Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs was on hand with the monocle which he seems never to use, flapping on the outside of his overcoat; the Minister for Foreign Affairs bursting with idealism was of course present and most important of all, Ismet Pasha in a worn top hat and with his quick and charmingly boyish smile much in evidence. Mr. Venizelos descended from the train, Ismet Pasha said "Comment allez vous" to him three times; the guard of honor presented arms, the band struck up the Greek National Anthem in most sickly fashion; there was a bit of hand-clapping and Mr. Venizelos passed through the station. The whole thing was a bit stilted; it was ludicrous in spots, but if it had been ten times more stilted, ten times more ludicrous, the greatness of the occasion would not have suffered, for it was a great occasion, a very great occasion. Mr. Venizelos, the fashioner of the Smyrna occupation, the inspirer of Lloyd George, the prophet of the new Byzantinism, had come to Ankara publicly to proclaim that he had been mistaken and to consecrate Greco-Turkish friendship. Only a very great man could have done it and done it so ungrudgingly. During his stay in Ankara Mr. Venizelos omitted no word or gesture calculated to further the purpose of this visit. He has been called a great

actor,

actor, but there was a good deal more than acting at Ankara. There was sincerity in act and in word and this sincerity was reciprocated by the Turks. There was real feeling, real conviction in the speeches of both Mr. Venizelos and Ismet Pasha.

From the station to the Ankara Palas Hotel Mr. Venizelos passed under a triumphal arch the supporting columns of which were blue and white in color and German cubist in design. These columns supported an inscription of welcome - in Greek. And to be perfectly sure that the Greek was grammatical and the spelling was correct, the Turkish Protocol Department consulted the Greek Legation. Those who remembered Ankara in 1924-25 upon seeing this inscription felt the desirability of consulting a nerve specialist. Wasn't it all an hallucination? One found it hard to put down a feeling of unreality.

Mr. Venizelos attended four balls and a corresponding number of luncheons and dinners. There was a ball given by Ismet Pasha for Mr. Venizelos, and then one for Count Bethlen, the Turk Ocak Ball on the National Holiday and a return Ball given by the Greek Minister. The same people went to each ball and said the same sort of things to each other. The Gazi was present at the Turk Ocak Ball. Under the watchful eye of Kilidj Ali Bey and a bunch of painfully obvious secret service men he moved from room to room with his entourage stopping for five minutes to half an hour to carry on a conversation with some favored individual or to drink a glass of champagne.

The parade on the National Holiday brought out the

full

full dramatic quality of Mr. Venizelos' visit. The Gazi and Mr. Venizelos sat in the same tribune and reviewed the Turkish Army. It was fitting that these two founders of modern Turkey should have been present together, the second through his mistakes having furnished to the first the occasion for manifesting his military genius and his political leadership. And what Mr. Venizelos saw during the review was representative of both the strength and weakness of Turkey: the toughened and utterly impassive Turkish common soldier recruited from the Anatolian peasantry and the Boy Scout, obviously city bred, tricked out in fancy uniform and gaudy trappings and knicknacks, too well dressed to work.

What of the tangible results of Mr. Venizelos' visit? First of all, there are the treaties: a 36-article combination establishment, commercial and consular agreement to last two years (at the request of the Greeks), an arbitration treaty of the type of the Italian-Turkish arbitration treaty and a naval agreement providing for a six months notice in case the status quo of either fleet is to be modified. In the second place Mr. Venizelos after leaving Ankara went to Istanbul for some eight hours and called officially on the Oecumenical Patriarch - and this call was made with the approval and blessing of the Turkish Government. The background of the call deserves brief description. Mr. Venizelos told the Turks that it would be impossible for him to come to Istanbul without calling on the Patriarch. He therefore asked whether the Greek cruiser couldn't drop him at Ismid. The Turks

replied

replied that Ismid was out of the question since it was a military zone, but that if Mr. Venizelos wanted to call on the Patriarch, why not go ahead and do it? While in Ankara Messrs. Venizelos and Michalacopoulos had a talk with Ismet Pasha and Tevfik Rüştü Bey concerning the future of the Greek minority in Istanbul. The conversation was labelled informal, unofficial, personal, confidential and all the other things that diplomats usually say under such circumstances, but it took place and I am told that the parties agreed to the application of the principle of equality before the law both to Greeks in Istanbul and Turks in Thrace. What the results will be, if any, remain to be seen, but the mere process of talking doubtless did a certain amount of good. Incidentally, it may be pointed out that the Greeks of Istanbul are leaving fast. The economic situation has something to do with it but the prospects of Turkish military service - in the labor battalions, it is said - has even more. The boys leave when they are sixteen and the girls have a hard time in finding husbands. On the other hand the Turks in Thrace stick. They are farmers and own land. Perhaps the time will come when the Greeks will wish that the exchange of populations had been complete. But that is a question for the future. The big fact is that Byzantinism as a political creed has been abandoned by the Greeks and a way has been found whereby Turkish nationalism and Greek nationalism may live side by side and in peace. The past week at Ankara has been history made.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph C. Grew.

Copy sent E. I. C., Paris.

IN

EMBASSY OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Istanbul, November 4, 1930.

No. 1159

INTERNAL REVENUE BUREAU
DEPT OF STATE
NOV 19 30

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 20 1930
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

FOR DISTRIBUTION - CHECK Yes No
✓
✓

INDEX BUREAU
767.68/686

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

Supplementing my despatch No. 1151/685 of November 3, 1930, I have the honor to transmit herewith translations 1/ of the speeches made by Ismet Pasha, Turkish Prime 2/ Minister, and by Mr. Venizelos, Greek Prime Minister, on the occasion of a dinner held on October 27, 1930, at Ankara. There is likewise transmitted a translation of the speech made by the President of the Turkish Republic on November 1, 1930.

Respectfully,

For the Ambassador:

David Williamson.

David Williamson,
Third Secretary of Embassy.

Enclosures:

1/ Translation of Ismet Pasha's speech.
2/ Translation of Mr. Venizelos' speech.
3/ Translation of President's speech.

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Copy sent E. I. C., Paris.

Enclosure No. 1

ISMET PASHA'S SPEECH.

Oct. 27, 1930

Excellency:

I am sure that it will not be difficult for you to perceive the sincerity of the welcome which it is my pleasure to address to you not only on my behalf but also on behalf of the Government of the Republic, and of the profound pleasure accorded us by your visit to our capital. Some people believe that chance is the greatest factor in politics. According to them the success or failure of every attempt is the result of the combination of certain incidents beyond the control of human beings. I don't know how far this contention is justified and how far it can be proven. However,

desire and hope at every opportunity. The convention of June 10th last which finally enabled us to put an end to this situation hardly in harmony with the goal aimed at by both parties, by definitely settling certain matters involving big financial interests, constituted the first fruit of the tendency of understanding resulting from a full comprehension of the real interests of Turkey and Greece.

From this moment on, the foundation was laid for an honest and productive cooperation of these two neighboring countries for the greatest benefit of peace, the sublime ideal of those whose duty it is to serve the interests of their country. A firm and lasting friendship cannot be based on sentimental manifestations. The correspondence of the principal interests of the two parties and their mutual confidence is the sole guaranty for the soundness and duration of friendships binding countries together. This being so, it will be admitted that the Turks and the Greeks must agree and cooperate in the Balkans as well as in the Mediterranean basin where they have in every respect the same great interests. It is with this thought in mind that we welcome the visit of yourself and your companions to Turkey.

My dear Premier, the enthusiastic reception which you have met here will show you to what an extent the Turkish nation shares this idea and will at the same time evidence the friendly inclination which it harbors towards the country you represent here with such dignity. I am of the opinion that the future generations in your country as well as in ours will be grateful to those who have worked and will work on the creation of a solid edifice of Turco-Greek friendship. I don't want to close before expressing our most heartfelt thanks to Mr. Venizelos and Mr. Mihalakopoulos for the pleasure they have accorded us by coming all the way to Ankara to visit us. For us it is a particular satisfaction to have them as guests and I am pleased to be able to present them here our profound respects.

I raise my glass to the happiness of His Excellency the President of Greece, and to the personal happiness of our congenial guests, to your health and to that of Mr. Mihalakopoulos and drink to the continued rise of the Greek nation and to Turco-Greek friendship.

sr

Enclosure No. 2

SPEECH OF M. VENIZELOS

Oct. 27, 1930.

Excellency:

I wish to present to you my profound gratitude for your pleasant words on my behalf to which you have added a personal touch recalling our first meeting. Since this event our friendly relations have steadily grown stronger. Two years ago when you invited me to visit you, serious reasons induced me to doubt the possibility of responding to your invitation. However, realizing the symbolic meaning of such an act, I have not failed to respond to your invitation as soon as possible.

Thus, I have wished to express the firm decision of Greece to consider the territorial status quo of the Lausanne Treaty, as the definitive settlement between the two states.

As a matter of fact, Turkey was transformed from a monarchy into an exclusively national state and on the other hand the Greek nation has achieved its national unity. For this reason an agreement between these two states had become a necessity.

Thus a new era had opened between these two countries. It is for this very reason that we have come here and sincerely extemt to you our hands and tell you that our century long struggle has definitely come to an end. Both of us do this with our heads up, proud of our past which is full of noble struggles and achievements. Development of events has induced us to choose another path. And we have found what we have been looking for in a path leading to a close, sincere and most cordial friendship and to a vast cooperation in all fields.

I am firmly convinced that our nations, that even all the nations of the entire Near East will some day be grateful to us. By uniting we can form a sound support for the peace of the Balkans and even for that of Europe. We are hopeful in regard to a Balkanic union. But as long as this union does not exist it is of especial importance for Turkey and for Greece to know that until its realization they will in no respect oppose each other.

Until such an understanding could be attained it was necessary to cover a long path and to put forth arduous and continuous efforts. For this reason I am going to call historical the minute I arrived at Haydar Pasha together with my eminent collaborator,

the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The enthusiastic and splendid reception which I encountered there and which deeply touched me, the arrival of the Turkish warships when we approached Turkish territorial waters were not simply the ceremonies effected by a country to manifest hospitality to a head of a government but they also constituted a brilliant evidence of the fact that you participate and adhere to the idea inspiring our visit.

As a matter of fact, as eloquently pointed out by Your Excellency this visit is not the result of mere chance. It is a manifestation which no doubt will inaugurate a new era in the relations of these two countries. I wish to point out that the agreement of June 10 which put an end to certain differences of an economic nature existing between the two nations, is a necessary beginning which will be completed by building up a stable edifice of agreements embracing a broad scope and creating the basis for a close cooperation.

You have called back to our memory our collaboration at Lausanne. I associate these words with those which you spoke before the Grand National Assembly to the effect that at all moments when the protection of the interests of my country were not at stake, you had found in me far from an obstacle - a delegate who with a broad understanding assisted you in your work. I had to give you a reply and I did this in my country. But I wanted to do this in your presence and in your country, so I have now the satisfaction of performing this pleasant task. I declare that I have not diverged for a moment from the main course followed by you and which you have brought to mind with such eloquence. I wish openly to state that while following this course I have relied on the person of Your Excellency, whom I very much appreciate as an indefatigable defender of the interests of his country as well as a statesman knowing how to surmount obstacles. Contemplated from a low angle these obstacles may obstruct sight. But from a higher point of view, vast and broad horizon freely spreads before the eyes and these obstacles efface themselves completely. We knew that we would meet the same difficulties, encounter an obstinate opposition and be attacked for forgetting the past. But at that same time I was convinced that I was not working alone, that you also on the other side of the frontier were awake, and I knew that I had in you a courageous collaborator while I was facing serious troubles and fighting fiercely. I felt that with every passing day we approached each other closer, that the obstacles were retreating and that the day would arrive when we would meet each other. This moment has now arrived.

While speaking about the program of my Government as far as a Turco-Greek rapprochement is concerned I consider it as superfluous to point out that this

constitutes at the same time the program of the leaders of all political parties in Greece. The Greek nation took advantage of the very first opportunity to manifest this with great alertness. When the Turkish flag was hoisted on the mast of the stadium with the object of signalling a victory of the Turkish athletes, tens of thousands of people arose as one single individual and warmly greeted it. The resounding echo of this applause for your flag was nothing but another manifestation of the signs of cordial friendship which your eminent delegates to the Balkan conference met everywhere.

Nothing separates the two countries any longer. Many factors unite us to each other: neighborhood; the Agean Sea, which far from separating us constitutes a means of constant contact; the long acquaintance of people who for years have lived side by side and have learned to know and appreciate each other. Finally another important point is that both have relinquished monarchy and accepted the Republican form of Government. While expressing deep gratitude for the sincere and splendid reception accorded me from the moment I stepped ashore and which had its repercussion throughout the Greek nation, I have the pleasure of presenting my admiration for the marvellous efforts displayed by the Turkish nation with great success for the consolidation of the young Turkish Republic founded on a solid basis. I feel particularly pleased to be able to greet here the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tevfik Rüstü Bey who at your side during long years of endeavors has, by removing with great industry and energy the obstacles arising before him every day, outlined your policy of rapprochement with great mastery. I raise my glass to the happiness of the President of the Republic, to the health of your wife and Mme. Tevfik Rüştü, to your health and to the health of Tevfik Rüştü Bey. I drink to the prosperity of the Turkish nation and to Turco-Greek friendship.

Enclosure 3.

Translation of the speech of the President of the Turkish Republic, November 1, 1930, at Ankara.

Honorable Members of the Grand National Assembly:

Greeting with respect your eminent assembly, I inaugurate the new session. I am confident that the Third Grand National Assembly, having already distinguished itself through great reforms and useful services to the country, will also devote this last year of its activity in assuring to the country a great number of important needs.

Honorable Gentlemen, the closing year was full of important events. The malevolent and hostile plans, nourished abroad for years, gave rise this year to incidents which disturbed the tranquility of our citizens in the Eastern provinces. These incidents, the details of which are known to you, were brought to an end with discouraging results to the enemies of our country.

We owe these results to the interest and alertness shown by the population and to the adequate defense of the Republic as well as to the foresight and courage of the Republican Army and gendarmery of which we are proud. I evoke here with respect and gratitude the memory of those citizens and soldiers who fell for this cause.

Past events have demonstrated once more the power and stability of the Republic. I hope these incidents have proven that the happiness and tranquility of the citizens rests in national unity defined by the Republican laws and that none of the machinations or provocations from abroad can have any effect. We have been greatly affected by the recent flood at Smyrna. The loss of lives and the hardships experienced have particularly increased our grief. No effort is spared by the Government to adopt the necessary measures.

Another event against which we had to struggle last year was the national currency crisis. The adequacy of the measures taken with a view to facing this crisis has already been demonstrated. The important features are, the alertness of the nation from an economic point of view, and its confidence in its right of existence. The measures taken by the Assembly and the Government coincide on these particulars. The present situation still requires the continuation of careful and cautious financial and economic measures.

Gentlemen, there exists at present a universal crisis which is felt particularly in agricultural countries. The pressure of this crisis has also affected our country. The vitality and resistance shown by our country in the face of this difficult situation - particularly after unprecedented devastation and years of dearth and drought - can only be explained by the power inherent in the Turkish body and the adequacy of the measures taken by the Grand National Assembly.

During the coming years we need to apply on a far greater scale the measures taken in the past. A most economical form of administration must dominate all our official as well as our private transactions. It is for this very reason that the Government presented the budget to the Grand National Assembly after it had effected important economies.

The modifications and reforms in the taxes, the details of which are known to you, will lessen the burden of the taxpayer and will especially assure economic facilities. This is particularly true with reference to the changes planned in connection with the Transaction Tax.

The establishment of the Central Bank and the presentation of its stocks to the public will take place in the near future.

We do not doubt that the citizens will manifest keen interest in this national institution which will constitute an important element both financially as well as economically.

Naturally the Republican Government will endeavor in good faith to find the equitable and practical manner of the solution of the Ottoman debts which will, at the same time, not endanger the life and development of the country.

Practically all commercial negotiations have been terminated. The efforts spent for the development of commercial relations will no doubt contribute to the economic development of the country.

One of the important events of last year has been the completion of the Sivas railway line. I am sure that this accomplishment, made against so many difficulties, and which has opened up for us twice as much of the country and rendered it doubly strong, is an achievement which will be mentioned with gratitude by the future Turkish generations.

Honorable Gentlemen, our foreign policy - to maintain peace and good relations - is being sincerely pursued. I hope that this clear and sound policy which professes loyalty in international relations and opposes no country whatsoever is being better understood.

The cordial reception which our Minister for Foreign Affairs met on his visit to Soviet Russia, our great neighbor and friend has deeply touched us. The stability of the relations of these two countries has thus been demonstrated. This is really a satisfactory event.

, I mention with particular pleasure the official visit to Ankara of the Premier and Foreign Minister of Greece, our neighbor and friend. The supreme interests of Turkey and Greece have completely ceased to be opposed to each other. Both countries are justified in expecting power and security through this sincere friendship. The instruments establishing, on a treaty basis, the new foundations of this new era will be submitted to you for your approval.

The ancient and tried friendship between us and Hungary has assumed particular significance and value with the official visit of its Premier. We expect and desire that the good and sincere relations between our countries will develop continually.

Honored representatives of the nation, our judiciary has stood a new test in protecting - against political activities - the security and dignity of the country; the principles and existence of the Republic and the authority and influence of the Government. I want to point this out with emphasis.

Thanks to the high ability of the judiciary, in which we have full confidence, the Republic will be able to follow its destined development and protect the rights of the citizens and the security of the country against attacks and underhanded ways.

Dear friends, the appearance of new parties in our political life immediately preceded the municipal elections. Here we witnessed remarkable developments.

The Turkish nation must profit from the experiences gained from these events and apply this gain to the existence and development of the Republic. The beneficial developments of mutual activities in the political domain can only be guaranteed by preventing the development of hostility among citizens. This can be assured if the entire nation rejects those insincere elements which may join the parties harboring secret plans and aiming at unlawful results, and if the political parties working on a Republican principle keep distant from the activities of such elements.

I hope that more care will be given in our country to employ the freedom of written expression with the dignity becoming to a democratic administration. I am of the opinion that special care is required in this matter, this country having suffered many disastrous consequences from an abuse of liberty.

Honorable Gentlemen, we shall embark upon new elections after the termination of the productive and patriotic activities of the Third Grand National Assembly of this session.

Past experiences should indicate the development of the legal and administrative measures necessary for the assurance of a free use of the ballot by the citizen, and the proper attitude to be adopted by the parties.

The Grand National Assembly which is the sole source of power and authority determining the fate of this country is at the same time the greatest guaranty for its domestic and foreign tranquility. Great national evils have so far found their remedy only in the Grand National Assembly. This will also be the case in the future. The love and attachment of the Turkish nation always has been and always will be directed to the Grand National Assembly.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 767.6811/3 FOR #1523

FROM Greece (Fisher) DATED Nov.6, 1930

TO NAME

1—1127 GPO

INDEX BUREAU

767.68/687

REGARDING:

Comments on speech by Venizelos concerning treaties between Greece and Turkey relating to conciliation, neutrality, commerce and naval parity and possibility of continued better relations between the two countries.

Wi

Athens, November 6, 1930.

No. 1523.

Subject: Mr. Venizelos' Speaks on the Greco-Turkish Treaties.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

On November third Mr. Venizelos made his expected public speech in explanation of the recently concluded Greco-Turkish series of agreements relating to neutrality, conciliation, commerce, and naval parity. His address was made in the open air in Constitution Square and his rather brief remarks were enthusiastically received by enormous crowds, thus abundantly vindicating the courage he displayed in forcing through what would have been an unpopular move by any other Greek leader.

As was expected, Mr. Venizelos reiterated his former statements to the effect that a new era in Greco-Turkish relations had been entered; that all thought of a revision of the Lausanne Treaty had been abandoned; and that there was every reason for future friendly relations between the two States now that both

had

had taken on a national character through the exchange of populations. Such views would have indeed been startling a short while ago, but since they were expressed with even greater warmth at Ankara, they created little comment and no important opposition.

In fact, Mr. Venizelos painted such a sanguine picture of mutual admiration that a sceptic could not refrain from asking why constant strife has marked the relations between the two neighbors for centuries. I do not mean to imply that Mr. Venizelos has deceived himself to the point where he believes that future difficulties in the Eastern Mediterranean are inconceivable, which is practically what he has been saying. He is by far too astute to take the sentiments exchanged at Ankara literally.

At the same time, I do not feel that it is fair to accuse him of insincerity, since the standards for judging frankness vary from those commonly accepted when one is negotiating for one's country. I am sure Mr. Venizelos hopes that the recent agreements mark the closing of an unfortunate chapter in the history of his country, - but after all, a chapter far from the end of the book.

As Mr. Skinner pointed out in his despatch No. 1512 of October 25, 1930, the age-old urge of Greece toward the East can hardly be halted by the signing of documents, and I feel sure that Mr. Venizelos was influenced by a desire to strengthen the position of the sixty-odd thousand Greeks now living in Constantinople. With such an influential minority, which will probably be added to, Greece will have to be consulted should Turkey ever be further dismembered.

If this

If this country produced statesmen of the Venizelos calibre as a regular thing, one might be optimistic regarding the outlook for a peaceful settlement of the natural conflict of Greek and Turkish interests. However, with the notoriously unhappy penchant that Greece has for government, in contrast to the fine theories of rulership that have always been characteristic of Greek thinkers, one may be permitted a certain cynicism as to the "new era." I believe, however, that it will prove more lasting than the "new era" theory of American prosperity that our Wall Street leaders so confidently prated about from 1925 until the stock-market crash in 1929.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Carl A. Fisher

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Copy to E.I.C., Paris.

CAF/ewf

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 467.11/371 FOR letter

FROM War Dept. ( ) DATED Dec. 8, 1930.

TO NAME

1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Certain reports relative to the fire in Smyrna in Sept. 1922. Political relations ~~of~~ between Greece and Turkey in connection with the fire in Smyrna.

th

767.68/688

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 467.11/373 FOR Desp. #1172

FROM Turkey (Grew) DATED Dec. 1, 1930.
TO NAME

1—1127

767.68/689

REGARDING: Smyrna fire of 1922. Pamphlet received from the American Legation at Athens, establishing facts of fire, to be used in connection with claims.

cdh

Istanbul, December 1, 1930.

No. 1172

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

With further reference to the Department's instruction No. 868, of September 24, 1930, expressing its desire to collect information concerning the Smyrna fire of 1922, there is transmitted herewith a pamphlet received from the American Legation at Athens. 1/

The Legation at Athens secured this brochure from Professor Andréadès, who was the head of a commission of inquiry appointed to establish the facts surrounding the fire. Professor Andréadès stated confidentially to the Legation that the report of

the

the inquiry is existent today but that in 1922 Mr. Venizelos would not permit its publication.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph C. Grew.

Enclosure:

1. Pamphlet on the Smyrna fire in 1922.

[redacted]

RECD

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Athens, October 8, 1931.

No. 1882.

OCT 21 31

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 22 1931
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

TREATY DIVISION
OCT 30 1931
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Subject: The Greco-Turkish Accord.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

FOR DISTRIBUTION - CHECK
To the Field
Copy to M I D

767.68
note
033.6768

767.68/690

Sir:

The past four days have been given up to the visit to Athens of the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Turkey. It has been such a love feast that, remembering the bitterness of centuries that culminated in 1922, the present manifestations of affection seem incredible.

OCT 31 1931

FILED
NOV 5 1931

Nor is this rapprochement only official, - though it must be admitted that the personal views of Ismet Pacha and Venizelos have crystalized it in such striking fashion. The simplest classes, and even the refugees, from whom one would expect only bitterness, have seemingly endorsed this symbol of conciliation, and the opposition press, with unimportant exceptions, have been almost enthusiastic.

To a foreigner it seems scarcely credible that the natural rivalry and conflict of interests that have embittered Greco-Turkish relations for centuries could be conjured away by the signature of treaties. However, sincerity seems to permeate all of the negotiations, and with the minorities exchanged much of the conflict between the two races has been eliminated. With the Greek renunciation of the "grand idea" for an Hellenic empire in

Asia

Asia Minor, the immediate interests of the two nations, both politically and commercially, have much in common.

Ratifications of the series of treaties, signed at Ankara on October 27, 1930, were exchanged on October 6, 1931. Several questions of practical importance were discussed, such as: (1) the treatment of minorities; (2) visits by exchangeables to their native lands; (3) a commission of Greeks, Bulgarians, and Turks for the common methods in the production and sale of Oriental tobacco; (4) mutual aid to check smuggling; and (5) expedition of the task of the Mixed Exchange Commission. Decisions in furtherance of the preceding vague agreements may be expected in the coming months.

While many observers were sceptical as to the sincerity of the gesture when Mr. Venizelos humbled himself and made the journey to Ankara last year for the signature of the treaties, the past year has shown that there was much good will on both sides. This particular policy of the present Greek and Turkish Governments seems to me to be a fine example of constructive statesmanship that one sees only too rarely. In other words, without the leadership of Ismet Pacha and Venizelos, resulting from a collaboration that began at Lausanne in 1923 when the western powers were trying to dominate in the settlement of the Oriental question, the inherent friction would have been allowed to remain latent. So long as the present Governments remain in power, in Ankara and Athens respectively, I think that one can safely state that this particular sore spot, that had such great potentialities for trouble in the Near East, has been eliminated.

It does not follow that the natural urge of the Greeks to

re-establish

re-establish Byzantium in Istanbul has been forgotten. Such a deep-seated impetus, continual since A.D. 395, is likely to be heard from in the future if events should make its realization practicable.

Respectfully yours,

Carl A. Fisher

Carl A. Fisher
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Legation File No. 800

CAF/eg

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

RECEIVED

1931 NOV - 4 - PM 2:19

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

Athens, Greece, October 14, 1931.

No. 1887.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 24 1931
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

Subject: Bulgarian Suspicion of Turkish Visit.

FOR DISTRIBUTION

Copy to M I D

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

NOV 12 1931

767.68/690

767.68/691

With reference to my despatch no. 1882 of October 8th regarding the recent visit of the Turkish Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs to Athens, I have the honor to report that on the tenth instant PROIA reprinted an editorial from "Vremé", one of the larger newspapers of Belgrade, which voices the suspicion that certain secret agreements have been concluded. As evidence it states that the Turkish Ministers will meet Mussolini in Venice and afterwards proceed to Budapest, and that Count Bethlen was in Angora last year during Venizelos' visit there.

FILED
NOV 23 1931

PROIA declares that such suspicions are quite unjustified, that relations between Greece and Turkey are friendly and open, that if the Turkish Ministers visit Budapest it will be to return a visit, and that Greece and Turkey are bound to Italy by treaties based on pacific interests in the Eastern Mediterranean. As these facts are well known in Belgrade, and as

Greece

Greece is a party to a similar treaty of friendship with Yugoslavia, PROIA urges that such unfounded suspicions of Greco-Turkish relations should be banished as ridiculous.

According to press despatches from Sofia, the newspaper TRAKIA, organ of the Bulgarian-Thracian Committee, asserts that the Turkish visit constitutes a danger to Bulgaria. "Greece", it states, "feeling the strong tendency of Bulgaria to reoccupy the Aegean littoral, seeks the friendship of Turkey in order to assure her position in Western Thrace and Macedonia. The Turks, on the other hand, are endeavoring to hold their position in the Balkans by establishing Kurdish tribes in Eastern Thrace". In conclusion TRAKIA advises Bulgarian politicians to revise Bulgarian international policy with a view to counteracting Greco-Turkish friendship.

Respectfully yours,

Carl A. Fisher

Carl A. Fisher
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Legation File No. 710.

GG/eg

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 2138 Athens, April 27, 1932.

Subject: Greco-Turkish Relations.

FOR DISTRIBUTION - CHECK Yes No
To the Field ✓
In U. S. A. ✓
Copy to Consulate, Izmir.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

767.68

Sir:

Quite a little comment has appeared in the Athens Press relative to the recent visit of Greek athletes to Smyrna. This comment has been aroused by an article which appeared in the "ELEFTHEROS ANTHROPOS" which is to the effect that the Greek team was not well received and that the Turkish officials lacked cordiality in their attitude. Contrary to this article, the "ATHINAIKA NEA" prints a statement from members of the team and others present, bringing out the extreme cordiality of the reception accorded the Greek athletes. A great deal is made of the fact that the Turkish Athletic Team sang the Greek National Anthem in Greek upon the arrival of their colleagues from Greece.

The foregoing is principally of interest as showing that despite the very real efforts of the official leaders and intellectual leaders in both countries to bring about

a good

767.68/692

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a good understanding, contact between the two peoples still gives rise to misunderstanding. However, there is no question but what the general feeling between the Greek and Turk has greatly improved. At a tennis tournament held in Athens in which Turkish players participated, the Greek spectators applauded the Turkish team very sincerely for their fine play when winning their match against Greek players. Such manifestations are obviously of a most encouraging nature.

Respectfully yours,

Leland B. Morris,

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Legation File No. 710.

LBM/cwf

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NE
WE

Istanbul, August 15, 1932.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 14 1932
DIVISION OF
WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

No. 127

SUBJECT: The Gazi.

PM RECD

SEP 7 32

THE UNDER SECRETARY
SEP 9 1932
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR DISTRIBUTION - CHECK Yes No

767.68
note
757.67
741.67

767.68/693

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

757.60/5

Referring to my No. 126 of even date herewith, reporting my interview of yesterday with the President, Gazi Mustafa Kemal, he showed very distinctly that he has not forgotten, and still resents, the active part which British and French troops took in invading Turkey during the 1919-1922 struggle which ended in the Turks driving the Greeks out of Anatolia. The first synopsis of that chapter which I had prepared was tentatively entitled "Revolution against the Greeks" and when he signified his desire to have the title broadened and a

description

FILED
SEP 15 1932

description of the French and English invasions included therein, I prepared an additional part bringing in the defeat of the British at Izmit (commenting upon how brief is the reference thereto in the Gazi's six-day speech of 1927) and the repulse of the French at Aintab, which caused the word "Gazi" or "Victorious" to be added to its name, so that it is now called Gazi-Aintab. But yesterday even this elaboration of the original text did not satisfy his anti-French and anti-British memories. He spent some little time telling me in detail of the severity of those operations, citing the engagement against the British at Mersifoun, and against the French at Zunguldak and generally all along the Cilician frontier. All through this part of the conversation he said everything possible to modify any anti-Greek criticisms, while at the same time to accentuate his anti-British and anti-French memories. He is always very fair in his comments upon the British and French during the period that he first fought them on the Gallipoli peninsula, and, while he seems forgiving in regard to that 1915 campaign against Turkey, he is entirely unforgiving for their recommencing hostilities in the 1919-1922 invasion of Turkish territory. The distinction between the two seems somewhat far-fetched, but I report it.

Respectfully yours,

Charles H. Sherrill

Charles H. Sherrill.

800.1/710

CHS:gaj

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 867.9111/378 FOR Report #-

FROM Izmir (Bursley) DATED Sept. 1, 1932

TO NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Plans for the 1932 celebration of the anniversary of the expulsion of the Greeks in 1922.

las

767.68/694

767.68

767.64

Day of Deliverance

The feelings of the Greeks are not to be spared as was the pious intention after last year's celebration of September 9th, anniversary of the expulsion of the Greeks in 1922. In fact, the 1933 celebration is to be bigger and better than ever. The Gazi and other leaders of the country have been invited but there is no assurance that they will come. Kerriman Halis Hanim "The Beauty Queen of the World" has not accepted an invitation for the great day, but if she (and her father and uncle) is wise she will cash in on her brief burst of glory.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68/695

SEE 867.4061 Motion Pictures/4 FOR #244

FROM Turkey (Sherrill) DATED Dec.8, 1932

TO NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Turkish film "The Awakening of the Nations which contains anti-French and anti-British scenes but omits criticism of the Greeks.

Wi

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ankara, March 14, 1933.

No. 406

SUBJECT: Greece and Turkey at Geneva.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 20 1933
DIVISION OF
WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

RECD
DEPT. OF STATE
DIV. COM. & REC.
APR 5 33

FOR DISTRIBUTION - CHECK Yes No
To the Field
In U. S. A.

767.68/696

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500.A15A4

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
File HSV
APR 6 1933
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

During my long conversation this morning with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tevfik Rüştü Bey (see my despatch No. 402 867.00/2088 of today's date) and when he was discussing the general situation in Geneva and especially Turkey's votes there upon the disarmament question, I expressed some surprise that, given the close understanding between the Turkish and Greek Foreign Offices, due to his and Ismet Pasha's official visit to Athens last year, Mr. Politis (Greek Minister in Paris and Delegate to Geneva) had, according to the press, failed constantly to support Turkey's attitude. He told me that, promptly upon his arrival in Geneva, he and Mr. Politis had come to a complete

understanding

APR 10 1933
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understanding upon all matters under discussion there interesting both countries and that whenever necessary Mr. Politis had voted with Turkey, but on certain other occasions, when he (Tevfik Rüştü Bey) did not consider it especially necessary, Mr. Politis had supported France's thesis, because Turkey felt that Turco-Greek relations could thus be helped with the French Delegation. He gave no intimation that his return via Athens instead of via Belgrade and Sofia (as originally planned) had been caused, as was believed last week in Istanbul (see my despatch No. 398 of March 11, 1933) by any disagreement with Mr. Politis and the necessity for Turkey's checking up with his Foreign Office in Athens. He concluded by saying that in his opinion Greece and Turkey, working together, should serve as a balance weight for peace throughout the Near East just as Great Britain did between the much greater Powers of northern Europe. I commented that England's historicall policy would seem to have caused her always to espouse the second strongest Power on the Continent against the strongest, in order thereby to preserve the balance of the peace, and inquired if that also should, in his opinion, be the attitude in the Near East of the Turco-Greek combination. He replied that he did not think it should go as far as that but should always remain neutral in its joint peace endeavors.

Respectfully yours,

Charles H. Sherrill

Charles H. Sherrill.

710
CHS/g/rs

COPY SENT E. I. C. PARIS

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 500. A15 A4/1797 FOR # 398

FROM Turkey (Sherrill) DATED Mar. 10, 1933.

TO NAME

1—1127 ofo

767.68/697

REGARDING:

Press Statements by Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs upon his visit to Athens.

MN

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68/698

SEE 768.74/311 FOR #672

FROM Bulgaria (Shoemaker) DATED May 30, 1933

TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING:

Formation of a Turko-Bulgaro-Greek group.

Evidence of plans for the -.

Wi

Sofia, Bulgaria, May 30, 1933.

No.672 CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: INDICATIONS THAT EFFORTS ARE AFOOT TO CREATE NEW GROUP IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that during his visit to Geneva early this month Mr. Mooshanoff discussed the problems outstanding between Bulgaria and Greece with Mr. Maximos, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, and that since his return to Bulgaria the Prime Minister has on several occasions spoken publicly of the desirability of an immediate settlement with Greece. According to reports here the Bulgarian Minister at Athens has also been busy during the past month in an attempt to prepare the ground for a settlement, and his opposite number in Sofia has

likewise

likewise been engaged in unusual activity along the same lines. It is also understood on good authority that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has been active in support of an early settlement between Bulgaria and Greece, and now comes news from Ankara, on the heels of the recent negotiations in Athens between the Greeks and the Turks, that the latter have proposed to Sofia the conclusion of a Bulgaro-Turkish pact of non-aggression. This news has been confirmed to a member of my staff by the Turkish Minister here.

As it is thought in well informed circles that the new commercial agreement between Turkey and Greece is to lead to the signature, on the occasion of the projected visit of Mr. Tsaldaris and Mr. Maximos to Ankara in September, of a political pact calculated to guarantee peace in the Eastern Mediterranean, it would not seem unreasonable to conclude, in view of the increased activity toward a settlement of Bulgaro-Greek differences and of the proposal of Turkey for a non-Aggression pact with Bulgaria, that steps are actually afoot to create something similar to the Little Entente in extreme South-eastern Europe. At any rate the Legation is of the opinion that an effort along these lines is being made, and in conversation on this point with a member of my staff the Greek Minister here has not seen fit to deny the suggestion. However, he is not very hopeful of an early settlement of the differences between his country and Bulgaria. He states that he finds the Bulgarians as intransigent today on the Kafandaris-Molloff problem as they have ever been. The Legation learns from the British

Minister

Minister that it has been the hope of his Government that the Kafandaris-Molloff problem can be settled at London during the coming Economic Conference. Settlement there, instead of by direct negotiations, would have the merit of making it possible for the two Governments to deal with intransigent public opinion by presenting the settlement to their respective publics as part and parcel of the general decisions taken by the Economic Conference. But as the Greek Minister points out, if Mr. Mooshanoff does not go to London, and he now says that he does not see how he can get away, there would seem to be little likelihood that the dispute over the Kafandaris-Molloff agreement and reparations can be liquidated there.

In conclusion it should be reported that the British Minister here is also of the opinion that plans are afoot for the creation of a Turko-Bulgaro-Greek group, and one gains the impression from him that the British Foreign Office would welcome such a development in Southeastern Europe. Further evidence in support of the opinion that efforts are under way to form this group is seen in the fact that lengthy meetings of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Sobranje have been held during the past few days and that Mr. Mooshanoff has let it be known that he will soon call into being an extraordinary committee composed of members of all political parties in Bulgaria for the purpose of discussing Bulgarian foreign policy.

Respectfully yours,

Henry W. Shoemaker.

MBB:MC
Copies sent to E.I.G. ☒
" " " Embassy, Istanbul
" " " Legation, Athens

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68/699

SEE 768.74/313 FOR #680

FROM Bulgaria (Shoemaker) DATED June 10, 1933

TO NAME

1—1127 ero

REGARDING:

Denial of Bulgarian Prime Minister that Turkey is seeking to bring about an alliance between Bulgaria and Greece.

Wi

AE

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 2485

Athens, July 19, 1933.

Subject: Visit of Turkish Foreign Minister.

FOR DISTRIBUTION
To the United States
In U. S. A.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 7 1933
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

767.68/700

Sir:

Returning from Italy, the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tewfik Ruchdi Bey, stopped a few hours at Athens and had a long conversation with Premier Tsaldaris and other prominent members of the Greek Government. The visit of the Turkish statesman was looked upon as of the greatest importance in the development of Greco-Turkish relations. The Greeks are undoubtedly flattered to have been the object of such considerable political attention on the part of the Turkish Government as has occurred in the last year or so. It is a novel experience to them in their relationship with the Turks and therefore all the more pleasing.

It is reported that the Turkish Foreign Minister and the members of the Greek Government discussed the proposed Black Sea Agreement, a Balkan Alliance, including a settlement of the outstanding inter-Balkan problems, and - most important of all - a general Greco-Turkish Agreement to which it is proposed to give more concrete attention next autumn when Premier Tsaldaris and Mr. Maximos plan to visit Ankara. The tendency

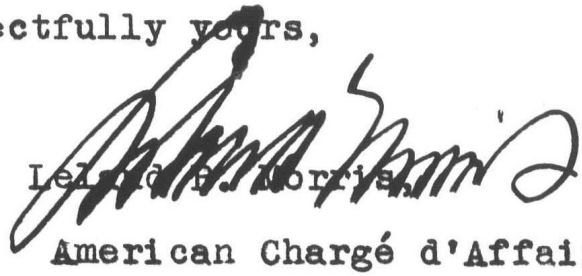
767.68
note
033.6764

AUG 12 1933
FILED

which

which has become manifest for the Turkish and Greek Governments to collaborate relative to questions of general Balkan interest meets the satisfaction of both the principal political parties in Greece. It seems probable that Turkey will succeed in her effort to win Greece's support for the various proposals which she has in mind with the principal object of advancing her own interests.

Respectfully yours,



Leland B. Morris,
American Chargé d'Affaires a. i.

Legation File No. 710.

LBM/cwf

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

76 7.68 /701

SEE 867.9111/403 FOR Report #-

FROM Istanbul (Allen) DATED June 28, 1933

TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING:

Statement of Greek Prime Minister that there is nothing to rumors of a Turko-Bulgaro-Greek pact. Present aim is that the existing treaty of amity and treaty of commerce be supplemented by a "more intimate drawing-together".

Wi

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 867.9111/404 FOR Report #-

FROM Istanbul (Allen) DATED July 22, 1933

TO NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Turko-Bulgaro-Greek pact.

Report that a - is under consideration.

767.68/702

Wi

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68/703

SEE 868.00 General conditions/31 FOR #2497

FROM Greece (Morris) DATED Aug.5, 1933

TO NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Visit of, the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Athens and his conversation with Premier Tsaldaris, in which the proposed Black Sea Agreement, a Balkan Alliance and a general Greco-Turkish Agreement were discussed.

Wi

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BUREAU OF INDEXES AND ARCHIVES

On July 12 he signed a decree postponing for a maximum period of six months the Athenian municipal elections. This decree will be submitted to Parliament for its approval.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tewfik Ruchdi Bey, on his return from Italy on July 16 stopped a few hours in Athens and had a long conversation with Premier Tsaldaris and other members of the Greek Government. It is reported that they discussed the proposed Black Sea Agreement, a Balkan Alliance, and a general Greco-Turkish Agreement.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 767.6812 Non-aggression/1 FOR #747

FROM Bulgaria (Barnes) DATED Sept.18, 1933

TO

NAME

1—1127

767.63/704

REGARDING:

Non-aggression pact between Greece and Turkey signed at Ankara on September 14.

Wi

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68 /705

SEE 770 Salonika, 1933/14 FOR #62

FROM Turkey (Skinner) DATED Dec.11, 1933

TO NAME 1--1127 GPO

REGARDING: Cooperation between Turkey and Greece on all matters of importance touched upon at the Fourth Balkan Conference in Salonika. Unveiling of of a memorial inscription on the house in Salonika in which the Gazi was born.

Wi

No. 62 Istanbul, December 11, 1933.

Subject: The Fourth Balkan Conference.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The Fourth Balkan Conference was held in Salonika between November 5th and 11th, 1933, the Turkish delegation, as heretofore, being headed by Hasan Bey, deputy from Trebizond and Vice President of the Grand National Assembly. He was accompanied by twenty members, including six deputies. The present recital is derived from Turkish press sources, and represents the Turkish point of view. It is obvious that the conference is making headway in consolidating public sentiment and in paving the

way

way to official understandings, and the universal hope that good will flow out of these annual meetings is reflected by the patronage which the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace gives to them. During the year ended June 30, 1931, the Endowment contributed $10,000 to the support of the conference, and additional support has been given since but to just what amount I do not as yet know. Owing to the Endowment's reduced revenues, I dare say that the contribution also has been reduced. The director of the Endowment, in his report for the year 1931, has said: "It would be a most interesting and striking development if the Balkans, so long the center of bitterness, suspicion, and discord should, by the adjustment of their own disagreements through mutual concessions and a friendly cooperation, point the way to permanent international peace." Unfortunately international peace does not seem to be progressing with anything like the momentum which it has acquired in this long-troubled peninsula.

As to the conference itself, it must be said that Turkish readers were unable to obtain a very precise account of the work accomplished, probably due to inadequate secretarial organization, and, in any case, critical discussion in the press has been singularly lacking. The conference was originally scheduled to meet on September 15th, but the date was postponed to November 5th at the request of the Bulgarians, in order that it might not coincide with

Ismet

Ismet Pasha's visit to Sofia. Probably the preceding interstate visits of Balkan statesmen were responsible for the remarkably mild and conciliatory atmosphere which characterized the most recent conference, as compared with the turbulent sessions witnessed at Bucharest when the Bulgariens almost completely withdrew from participation. This noticeable change in the general atmosphere is in itself considered to be a great step forward. Although the eternal question of the minorities also came up at Salonika, the debate which ensued appears to have been non-offensive.

The outstanding achievesent during the Fourth Balkan Conference which met from November 5th to November 11th, appears to have been the official adherence of the Bulgarian delegation to the Balkan Union project, already approved by the delegations of the other five Balkan states at the conference in Bucharest. Although this adherence was made subject to the reservations relative to the protection of the minorities and the assurance of equal rights to all Balkan countries expounded by the Bulgarian delegation at Istanbul as well as at Bucharest, it enabled the conference officially to request of the governments concerned the conclusion of a multilateral pact along the lines of the draft-project approved and adopted at Bucharest.

Simultaneously the Conference emphatically reiterated its previous suggestion relative to the

desirability

desirability of a regular annual meeting of Balkan statesmen; the Ministers for Foreign Affairs in particular. Following a proposal by Hasan Bey the conference decided to request the Greek Government to intervene with the other Balkan governments for the materialization of this suggestion.

In the economic domain the principal result obtained - to which great significance is attached - constitutes the adoption of a project elaborated by the Economic Committee relating to a Balkan understanding in customs and economic matters. The outstanding points of this project apparently provide for the application of preferential tariffs between Balkan states and the adoption of a joint trade policy - based on common agreement - in regard to foreign countries. Simultaneously the conference decided on the establishment of a Trade Compensation Chamber, to deal with the exchange of commodities between the Balkan countries.

In addition to the foregoing the Fourth Balkan Conference is reported to have suggested the construction of a railway line and a direct road between Sidirocastro and Dopnidja, the establishment of direct railway communication between Greece, Bulgaria, and Rumania by the construction of a bridge over the Danube between Bulgaria and Rumania, and the construction of a road between Posthumia, Subotica, Belgrade, and Athens.

Likewise it is said to have adopted an agreement for the uniform regulation of air traffic, the statutes of the maritime section of the Inter-Balkan Chamber of Commerce respecting maritime communication,

and

and measures of a nature to facilitate tourism among Balkan countries.

Furthermore the Conference is reported to have approved a project for the establishment of a Balkan Labor Bureau which is to work in conjunction with international labor organizations, and to have adopted the proposals made for the improvement of the conditions of working women by ensuring them equality as regards salary and advancement possibilities in all professions and trades.

Reports indicate at the same time that the committee charged with the examination of the unification of the laws of Balkan countries approved a project for an extradition convention to be concluded between the Balkan governments and decided on the unification of laws and regulations applied in regard to checks and policies.

Before adjourning, the Balkan Conference apparently expressed the opinion that the parliamentary element in the different national delegations should in the future be greater than heretofore and for this purpose decided on the modification of its statutes. A committee to be instituted by the Council of the Balkan Conference will be charged with this task. The same committee will examine a project offered by the Yugoslav delegation which, to all appearances, seems to be in flagrant contrast with the above decision of the Conference, since it aims at making of the

Balkan

Balkan Conference a purely private annual gathering of the different Associations of a Balkan Union the establishment of which it proposes in every Balkan country. In fact, this proposal appears to have called forth considerable surprise and ill-feeling in Balkan Conference circles as it was interpreted as an attempt to reduce the importance of this gathering which at the present, as emphatically pointed out by the Turkish and Greek delegates, reveals a semi-official character and which in their opinion must by all means be strengthened.

From the reports available one can easily infer a close Turco-Greek cooperation in practically all matters of importance touched upon at Salonika. As a matter of fact, several private conversations between the heads of the Turkish and Greek delegations are said to have taken place before the actual opening of the Balkan Conference which was preceded by the unveiling of a memorial inscription affixed on the house in Salonika in which the Gazi was born, a ceremony which constituted a renewed occasion for a cordial celebration and manifestation of the friendly ties existing between Turkey and Greece.

On his return from Greece Hasan Bey made a disappointing short statement to the local press in which he gave expression to the hope that the Balkan governments would seriously examine among themselves the proposals and suggestions made by the Conference, since this would be the only encouragement and guarantee

antee for future fruitful work. Likewise, in his opening address M. Papanastasiou, the President of the Fourth Balkan Conference, made some critical references to the neglect manifested by the governments involved in the matter of putting into effect and applying the proposals of the conference.

As regards the comments of the Turkish press, they were as pointed out above remarkably few and held to general lines. Nevertheless it is interesting that most editorials consider and appreciate the Balkan Union chiefly as a defensive measure against the outside. For example, referring to the political questions standing in the way of the conclusion of an understanding among the Balkan countries, Yunus Nadi Bey states in the CUMHURIYET:

> The necessity of jointly defending common interests against the outside world can easily facilitate the solution of many questions. ... Considered from this angle the problem of minorities as well as the question of frontier rectification lose all importance and weight. ...

Commenting on the possibilities and advantages of a Balkan customs union the VAKIT states:

> The Balkan countries have for ages been the victim of foreign exploitation. ... Individually they are helpless. ... All measures are futile. Consequently the principal problem is not the question of minorities but the matter of taking joint action and measures. ... For instance, a customs union will safeguard their vital interests and at the same time ensure their economic development. After creating among themselves markets for their products, the Balkan countries can proceed to a vast division of labor as far as industry is concerned. Thus the Balkans will become a complete economic unit. ...

In

In another article deputy Yunus Nadi Bey states in his CUMHURIYET:

> We have to admit that the recent Balkan Conference which met in Salonika constitutes an important step forward towards the desired understanding in the Balkans.

Respectfully yours,

Robert P. Skinner,
American Ambassador.

Copy sent to Amconsulate General, Beirut.
" " " Amlegation, Athens.

RPS/lr

800.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

740.0011 Mutual Guarantee(Balkan)/53

SEE ~~770.00/343~~ FOR memorandum

FROM Near Eastern Div. (Aldridge) DATED April 23, 1934

TO NAME 1—1127 GPO

767.68/706

REGARDING:

Relations between Greece and Turkey from the time of the conclusion of the exchange of populations agreement to the signature of the Balkan Pact.

Comments on -.

Wi

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 770.00/360 FOR #97

FROM Albania (Wheeler) DATED April 30, 1934

TO NAME 1-1127 GPO

REGARDING: Turkey's fear of Italy.

Discussion of - by King Zog.

767.68/707 707

Wi

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 238 Istanbul, Turkey, May 10, 1934.

Subject: Visit of the Greek Minister of War to Turkey.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 12 1934
DIVISION OF
WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

DISTRIBUTION — Yes No
To the State
In U. S. A.

767.68/708

AM RECD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 29 1934
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 10 1934
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
JUL 14 1934

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

General Condylis, War Minister in the Greek Cabinet, has come and gone, and we are not much the wiser for his brief presence. The official visit to Turkey included the usual receptions and dinner parties, concluding with a colorless official communiqué which might as well not have been issued, since all that it said was this:

> "During the conversations which took place in an atmosphere of great cordiality, it was perceived that Turkey and Greece were entirely in agreement upon the precious value of the entente cordiale pact which guarantees the inviolability of their common frontiers, and that the two countries have decided

> decided to pursue the development of their unshakable friendship, convinced that this friendship will have fecund results for the countries and for the cause of peace."

Notwithstanding these touching protestations of mutual devotion, my unofficial Turkish friends assure me that the two countries are watching each other carefully and while undoubtedly perfectly sincere in their intention to maintain good relations, and equally sincere in keeping an observing eye upon Bulgaria, they are not yet fully prepared, like the lion and the lamb, to lie down together. The actual purpose of the visit of General Condylis has given ground for a number of conjectures, none of them based upon anything more substantial than gossip. I catalogue them as follows:

1. General Condylis and General Metaxas have been proposing a dictatorship in Greece, but the Government of the day is not enthusiastic about it and the Venizelists are all against it. It has been thought possible that as General Condylis was an irreconcilable element in the domestic discussions, it may have been a good thing to send him away to Turkey for a few days on an official visit so that the political factors at home might talk things over in a more quiet atmosphere.

2. The Bulgarians have been greatly concerned with the appearance of General Condylis in Turkey, and profess to believe that it was entirely for the

purpose

purpose of discussing military matters bearing especially upon the two following points:

a. The necessity from the point of view of security of doing away with the demilitarized zone in Thrace;

b. The question of the closing of the Straits, in case of war, by the Turks, to guarantee their own security.

767.0145

Upon the above points a complete agreement was reached, but as the practical application of these plans demands certain modifications in the treaty of Lausanne, the two countries will ask for such modifications. Tevfik Rüştü Bey, Minister for Foreign Affairs, will lay these matters before the League of Nations at an early date. General Condylis is credited with stating that existing legislation in regard to the demilitarization of the frontier zones in Thrace is insufficient to guarantee the territorial security of the two countries. It is understood that Italy, more or less the declared champion of Bulgaria, is opposed to these ideas.

3. The Bulgarian Minister is positive that the "secret clauses" of the Balkan Pact (already communicated to the Department in my No. 213 of April 17, 1934) are aimed against Bulgaria, and if, as he anticipated, the present military conversations between the Greeks and the Turks were to deal with the defense of the Straits, they had in mind the isola-

770.00 346

tion

tion of Bulgaria. He repeated his well known thesis that Bulgaria must have an outlet on the Aegean and that no security is given by free zones or free ports. The Bulgarians want actual territorial control. They also realize that to go to war themselves for any such purpose would be madness and they look to the great Powers for eventual assistance in realizing their aspirations. They feel that Central Europe is in a ferment, that war will result one day, and out of the conflict Bulgaria may realize her present ambitions. Needless to say, this conception is totally different from that of Tevfik Rüştü Bey, who is intent on keeping the great Powers out of the Balkans and preserving the status quo.

4. Another suggestion is that the four Powers involved in the Balkan Pact are worried over the "secret clauses" which are no longer secret, having been communicated, so it is said, to the great European Powers. When the "secret clauses" were formulated probably it was intended that they should be secret but later on it was realized that we had entered on a period of open covenants, openly arrived at, and that the precious document ought to be filed at Geneva with the main treaty. Very likely General Condylis had some conversation with the Turks on the best way of dealing definitely with these clauses.

770.00

5. The Greeks are seriously troubled about the Balkan

Balkan Pact which they took up so enthusiastically. They saw in it a guarantee against the Bulgarians and had not thought out the implications of the Pact so far as Italy is concerned. But the Turks, whose fear of Italy is becoming an obsession, are trying hard to commit the Greeks to possible action against Italy. Mr. Venizelos, on the other hand, is fighting hard against any possible obligation under which Greece might have to take up arms against Italy.

One might continue in the above strain and prove nothing except that the four Powers signatory of the Balkan Pact appear to be working together harmoniously. The one disturbing element in the picture is Bulgaria. As to Bulgaria, it is stated piously, in various ways, that neither Greece nor Turkey desire that their discussions be interpreted at Sofia as directed against Bulgaria, although the practical effect would seem to be that Bulgaria is in their minds all the time. Furthermore, it is equally true that Bulgaria declines to keep quiet unless and until she can obtain a band of territory leading to the Aegean, for which she has no genuine commercial need but without which she can never be contented.

Respectfully yours,

Robert P. Skinner.

710

RPS/lr

6-3 No. 2257-V 38

3
RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1934 JUL 11 PM 1 49

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

G-2 Report

6900

JUL 14 1934
DEPARTMENT OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

HSV
file
MMB

Subject: Military Alliances and Ententes.
Visit to Turkey of the Greek Minister of War.

General Condylis, Greek Minister of War, recently visited Ankara for the purpose of discussing with the Turkish General Staff the arrangements between the two countries which must eventually grow out of the Turko-Greek Pact which implies mutual military assistance in certain events.

According to the Greek Military Attaché, who was present at all times with General Condylis, no real progress was made and no plans of any kind were even discussed. The point which apparently made the greatest impression on him was a rather persistent effort on the part of the Turks to get a contract from the Greeks for Turkish-made Curtiss "Hawks". As a matter of fact he called at the Embassy to get an expression of opinion as to the relative merits of Turkish and American-made planes.

767.68/709

J. A. CRANE,
Lt.Colonel, Field Artillery,
Military Attaché.

FILED
JUL 18 1934

From: M.A. Istanbul Report No. 6392 May 22, 1934.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

3

DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

July 12, 1934.

1934 JUL 17 PM 3 45

Le
Mr. Hackworth:

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

You may be interested in the attached correspondence between Mr. Max Rhoade and Mr. John Clayton regarding the origin of the Smyrna fire. After you have finished with the papers, if you will return them to me I will have copies made to be sent to Mr. Nielsen and to the Embassy at Istanbul.

767.68
note
467.11

Thanks

Ans'd. 7/17/34
PHA-SC.

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS
INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION
CHICAGO
1934

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1934 JUL 17 PM 3 45
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

RUFUS·C·DAWES PRESIDENT
C·S·PETERSON VICE PRESIDENT
DANIEL·H·BURNHAM SECRETARY
GEORGE·WOODRUFF TREASURER
LENOX·R·LOHR GENERAL MANAGER

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
BURNHAM PARK
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

TELEPHONES
INFORMATION VICTORY 1934
BUSINESS VICTORY 7700

July 17 1934.

July 9, 1934.

JUL 11 1934
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

Copies of enclosures to Embassy at Istanbul + Mr. Nielsen
7/14/34
PHA/LS

Dear Wallace:

I am enclosing copies of correspondence which Mr. John Clayton has had regarding incendiarism at Smyrna in 1922 which may prove of interest to the Department.

Yours very sincerely,

Wallace S. Murray, Esquire,
Chief, Division of Near Eastern Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

767.68/710

FILED
JUL 20 1934

Enclosures:

1. Rhoade to Clayton, June 21/34.
2. Clayton to Rhoade, June 25/34.
3. Clayton to Turkish Embassy, June 25/34.
4. Turkish Ambassador to Clayton, June 29/34.
5. Clayton to Turkish Ambassador, July 3/34.

(Copy)

Max Rhoade

Attorney and Counsellor at Law,

Union Trust Building

15th and H Street, N. W.,

Washington, D. C.

National 0122

June 21, 1934.

Mr. John Clayton,
Chicago Tribune,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Clayton:

I am having a claim of an American citizen against Turkey, for destruction of property in the burning of Smyrna in 1922.

I should greatly appreciate any information you can send me as to witnesses who saw Turkish soldiers or officers start the fire, including the following:

1. Present address or clue as to whereabouts of Minnie B. Mills, head of the American Collegiate Institute of Smyrna.

2. Names and addresses of all or as many as possible of the other members of the staff of the Institute.

3. Where was the sworn testimony of the members of this staff filed? I saw some mention of Lloyd George using "Official documents". Was it these depositions?

I herewith enclose self-addressed stamped envelope for your reply.

Your kind cooperation will be gratefully appreciated.
Thanking you I am,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Max Rhoade.

K:MR
EBC

P. S. Kindly mail reply to the following address:

Max Rhoade, c/o Isidore Edinger,
285 Madison Ave., New York City.

(Copy)

June 25, 1934.

Mr. Max Rhoade,
c/o Isidore Edinger,
285 Madison Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Rhoade:

I am afraid that I will be unable to help you establish your client's claim for the destroying of property in the burning of Smyrna in 1922.

I do not know the present address of Minnie B. Mills. It is possible that she may be continuing here work in the Near East at the American College at Beirat, Syria, but that is just a guess. I have no names or addresses or any of the staff of the Institute.

If members of that staff gave any sworn testimony, it would be filed with the American Consul at Smyrna and probably duplicates or photostats could be obtained from the Consular Section of the State Department in Washington.

I was with Miss Mills when the fire broke out opposite the American Institute. I saw the fire set and I do not believe that those who perpetrated the outrage were Turkish soldiers. It was true they were wearing nondescript uniforms but so were a number of loiterers and loafers around Smyrna.

The Turkish claim is that the fire was set by Armenians who hoped to attach the blame to the Turkish Army.

My dispatch regarding the fire was quoted universally with particular emphasis on the observation that the fire occurred on the first day in a week or two in which the wind had been away from the Turkish quarters. This was held as direct evidence that the Turks themselves had set the fire. I do not believe that this is the truth. The Turks had captured the City and there was absolutely no reason for them to burn the town in which they had every reason to take a great deal of pride. Of course, there is always a possibility that the Turkish soldiers, enraged by what they had seen on their advance, burned the city for revenge. As you doubtless know, the Greek army committed some horrible atro atrocities at Alasher and Magnesia.

However, I was in Smyrna througout the period of Turkish Occupation until after the fire and my own testimony would be that the Turkish Officers had their troops under excellent discipline and control.

I would not put any credence at all in Lloyd George's official documents because I have investigated some of his statements based on what he called "official documents" and found them to be very wide of the truth.

Very truly yours,

303 North Lincoln St.,
Hinsdale, Ill.

(Signed) John Clayton,

(Copy)

June 25, 1934.

The Turkish Embassy,
1606 23rd Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I was asked by a Washington attorney to give testimony in connection with a claim for destruction of property at Smyrna. I answered him as per the enclosed copy and trust that you will keep this letter confidential.

Very truly yours,

John Clayton,
303 North Lincoln Street,
Hinsdale, Illinois.

JC/MO

(Copy)

TURKISH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 29, 1934.

Mr. John Clayton,

303 North Lincoln St.,

Hinsdale, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of June 25th, enclosing the copy of the testimony you gave in connection with a claim for destruction of property at Izmir.

I would be grateful to you if you would kindly let me know in what capacity you were in Izmir when the fire broke out.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Mehmet Munir Bey

~~Ahmet Muhtar,~~

Turkish Ambassador.

See letter July 17, 1934, from Mr. H. Grant Smith. C

(Copy)

July 3, 1934.

His Excellency, Ahmet Muhter,
Turkish Ambassador,
The Turkish Embassy,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Excellency:

I was in Izmir at the time of the conflagration, as a staff correspondent for the Chicago Tribune. At the time of the outbreak of the fire, Mr. Ward Price of the London Daily Mail, and myself were the only foreign correspondents in the city, all the other American and British correspondents having returned to Istambul. You may perhaps recall that I was also the only foreign correspondent present during the first four days of the Armistice Conference at Mudania.

If you wish further information regarding my activities, I am sure you can obtain it from His Excellency, Ismut Pasha.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) John Clayton,
303 North Lincoln Street,
Hinsdale, Illinois.

JC-s

COPY.

July 12, 1934.

Dear Grant:

Many thanks for your letter of July 9, 1934, enclosing copies of letters exchanged between Mr. Max Rheade and Mr. John Clayton and between the latter and the Turkish Embassy regarding the origin of the Smyrna fire. I found this correspondence most interesting, but I was somewhat puzzled by the letter addressed to Mr. Clayton by the Turkish Embassy on June 29, 1934, purporting to be signed by the late Ambassador, Mr. Ahmet Muhtar. As you probably know, Mr. Muhtar left Washington several moths ago and just a week ago we received word of his death at Istanbul. It is therefore difficult to understand how he could have signed a letter in Washington on June 29th. As a matter of fact, Mehmet Munir Bey, the newly accredited Ambassador, presented his letters of credence to the President on June 8, 1934,- all of which makes the matter even more puzzling. Possibly this discrepancy makes no great difference, though it might lead some future investigator

The Honorable
U. Grant-Smith,
A Century of Progress,
Administration Building,
Burnham Park,
Chicago, Illinois.

investigator to question the genuineness of the correspondence. I wonder if Mr. Clayton could throw any light on the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Wallace Murray

NE PHA/GC

July 17 1934.

No. 95

To the American Ambassador,

Istanbul.

The Secretary of State encloses for the information of the Embassy copies of letters exchanged between Mr. Max Rhoade, an attorney, and Mr. John Clayton, and between the latter and the Turkish Ambassador in Washington, regarding the origin of the Smyrna fire in 1922.

767.68/710

Enclosures:

From Mr. Rhoade to Mr. Clayton, June 21, 1934;

From Mr. Clayton to Mr. Rhoade, June 25, 1934;

From Mr. Clayton to Turkish Embassy, June 25, 1934;

From Turkish Ambassador to Mr. Clayton, June 29, 1934;

From Mr. Clayton to Turkish Ambassador, July 3, 1934.

NE PHA/LS

JUL 17 1934

A true copy of the signed original

July 17 1934.

To the American Commissioner of the American-Turkish
Joint Claims Committee,
Care of American Consulate General,
Istanbul.

767.68/710

The Secretary of State encloses for the information of the American members of the American-Turkish Joint Claims Committee copies of letters exchanged between Mr. Max Rhoade, an attorney, and Mr. John Clayton, and between the latter and the Turkish Ambassador in Washington, regarding the origin of the Smyrna fire in 1922.

Enclosures:

From Mr. Rhoade to Mr. Clayton,
June 21, 1934;

From Mr. Clayton to Mr. Rhoade,
June 25, 1934;

From Mr. Clayton to Turkish
Embassy, June 25, 1934;

From Turkish Ambassador to
Mr. Clayton, June 29, 1934;

From Mr. Clayton to Turkish
Ambassador, July 3, 1934.

NE PHA/LS

JUL 17, 1934

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 867.9111/417 FOR Report #-

FROM Istanbul (Allen) DATED May 29, 1934

TO NAME

I -1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Visit to Turkey of the Greek Minister of War.

767.68/711

711

Wi

The latest distinguished foreign visitors to be entertained by the Turkish Republic have been General Condylis, Greek Minister of War, and General Catheniotis, chief of the Greek general staff, who, accompanied by their aides-de-camp and a representative of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, arrived at Istanbul on May 4 and at Ankara on May 5. The usual visits, receptions and banquets marked the occasion and on May 7 the Minister of War was received by Gazi Mustafa Kemal. The party returned to Istanbul on May 9 and left the following day for Piraeus. The press mentions the renewed determination of the two countries to maintain the peace and to preserve their territorial integrity. As the coming of General Condylis had been announced considerably in advance and therefore involves no element of surprise, there would appear to be no reason to assume that the event was dictated by any considerations of special significance.

General Condylis Visits Ankara

Moved no doubt by the recent Greek decision to permit Turkish deputies to travel free of charge on Greek railway trains, two Turkish deputies on April 28 moved to extend an identical privilege to Greek deputies as regards Turkish

trains

Courtesy For Courtesy :

trains. It has been observed that this is an excellent way to increase passenger traffic. As Turkish deputies pay no railway fares but only the sleeping-car supplements, it is often impossible for an ordinary traveler to obtain passage on the Ankara-Istanbul express, all the available places being taken by deputies.

Yugoslavia

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68/712

SEE 867.504/11 FOR #311

FROM Turkey (Skinner) DATED June 30, 1934

TO

NAME

1-1127 ere

REGARDING: 15,000 Greeks will be forced to leave Turkey as a result of the restriction of certain trades to Turks. Attitude of the Greek Government in the matter.

Wi

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS

INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION
CHICAGO
1934

RUFUS·C·DAWES PRESIDENT
C·S·PETERSON VICE PRESIDENT
DANIEL·H·BURNHAM SECRETARY
GEORGE·WOODRUFF TREASURER
LENOX·R·LOHR GENERAL MANAGER

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
BURNHAM PARK
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

TELEPHONES
INFORMATION VICTORY 1934
BUSINESS VICTORY 7700

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED
JUL 20 1934
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 20 1934
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

July 17, 1934.

767.68

Dear Wallace:

Referring to your letter of the 12th instant, I find that on examination of the letter from the Turkish Ambassador that it was signed by Mehmet Munir Bey. The signature was illegible and we made the natural mistake in referring to the May Diplomatic List, the latest one which we have. Please make the change in the copy which you have.

Yours very sincerely,

U. Grant Smith

Wallace S. Murray, Esquire,
Chief, Division Of Near Eastern Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

767.68/713

FILED
JUL 20 1934

July 20, 1934

Dear Grant:

Many thanks for your letter of July 17th regarding the signature on the letter from the Turkish Embassy which you recently sent me. The mystery is now entirely cleared up.

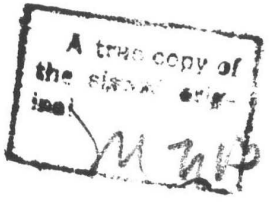
With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Wallace Murray

The Honorable
U. Grant-Smith,
A Century of Progress,
Administration Building,
Burnham Park,
Chicago, Illinois.

NE PHA/LVD



767.68/713

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68/714

SEE 867.504/13 FOR #319

FROM Greece (MacVeagh) DATED July 24, 1934

TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING:

Expulsion of Greeks from Turkey due to the restriction of certain trades to Turks.

Effect on Turko-Greek relations of -.

714

Wi

Athens, July 24, 1934.

No. 319.

Subject: Greek Public Opinion and the Recent Expulsion of Greeks from Constantinople.

767.68

867.504/13

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that, as might be expected, the recent summary expulsion from Constantinople of the Greeks employed there has not been passed over in silence by the Greek press, the comments of which, reflecting no party spirit but

the true

the true national sense of repugnance and horror over the injustice thus inflicted on innocent people, many of whom are not immigrants, but natives of Turkey, have caused the Turkish Legation in Athens to address lively protests to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Greek public opinion, which has been steadily moving in a direction favorable to Turkey, under the guidance of responsible leaders of all political shades, has, however, received a shock which official protests will do little to overcome. It may even be that the Greek Government will indulge in reprisals against the Mussulmans of Turkish origin still holding rich tobacco lands in Western Thrace. The friendship recently struck up with Turkey means too much to Greece at present to be lightly jeopardized. But the Government does not seem averse to letting Ankara know, if so far only through the medium of the press, the profound effect which this Turkish action has had on the development of the rapprochement between the two nations. Greek friendship must mean something, after all, to a nation like Turkey which stands in such fear of the growth of Italian power in the Aegean. But, with a new army of refugees to be provided for, many voting Greeks are having their eyes opened to the possible cost of Turkish friendship, and it is not to be doubted that the enemies of the Balkan pact, who see Greece's interests lying chiefly in the Mediterranean,

will take

will take new heart from this affair.

Respectfully yours,

Lincoln MacVeagh.

LMacV:ime.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68 /715

SEE 867.9111/419 FOR Report #-

FROM Istanbul (Allen) DATED July 28, 1934

TO NAME 1—1127

REGARDING:

Law reserving certain professions and callings to Turks.

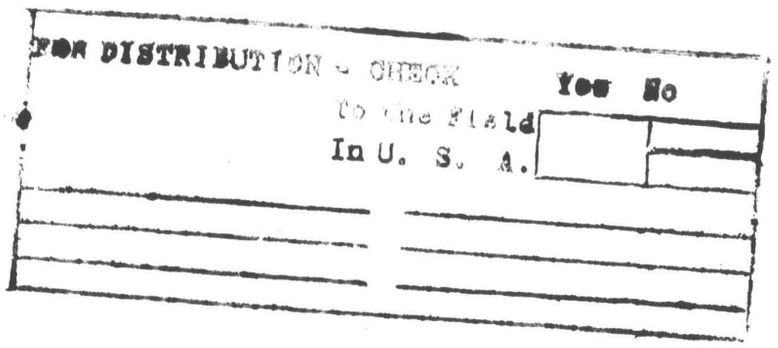
Certain concessions made to Greeks as a result of negotiations between the Greek Consul General and the Governor of Istanbul.

Wi

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 353 Istanbul, Turkey, August 7, 1934.

Subject: Claims Against Turkey.



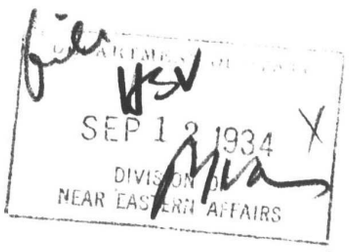
AM MCD

767.68/716

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.



FILED
SEP 15 1934

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's instruction 767.68/710 No. 95, dated July 17, 1934, enclosing copies of letters exchanged between Mr. Max Rhoade and Mr. John Clayton. Miss Minnie B. Mills, who is mentioned in Mr. Rhoade's letter, is at present the principal of the American School for Girls at Ellenico, Greece. It is, of course, too late to accept new claims for the consideration of the Commission, but perhaps Mr. Rhoade has already filed his papers. The name of his claimant is not mentioned in the correspondence.

Respectfully yours,

Robert P. Skinner.

400
RPS/lr

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Sept. 17,1934

Mr. MacMahon:

Thru error, this despatch from Mr. Nielsen, Istanbul became attached to #353, August 7,1934 from Turkey (767.68/716) and was not stamped by N.E.

767.68/716 was received by N.E. on Sept. 12 and returned to D.C.R. files late Saturday - Sept. 15.

lec

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AM RECD

DEPT. OF STATE
DIV. OF COM. & REC.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
-WASHINGTON-

LEGAL ADVISER
SEP 17 1934
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEP 11 34

Istanbul, August 12, 1934.

Ref: 467.11-

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

File HSV
SEP 12 1934
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

767.68/710

Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's communication of June (July?) 17, 1934, transmitting copies of certain interesting correspondence with regard to the status of claims growing out of the fire in Smyrna in 1922.

It seems to me that the Turkish authorities have not been disposed to take very seriously the question of settling American claims, but that they have nevertheless possessed interesting and accurate information regarding the number and character of claims. For that reason it would have been of interest but probably of no importance to me to know how this correspondence came into the Department's possession.

Very respectfully,

Fred K. Nielsen

FILED
SEP 19 1934

767.68/717

cc to NE

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68/718

SEE 867.4051/9 FOR #490

FROM Greece (Aldridge) DATED Dec.14, 1934

TO

NAME

1—1127

REGARDING: Turkish legislation designed to abolish ecclesiastical costumes of clergymen of all denominations.

Greek resentment at - due to belief that the Greek Patriarch and Greek priests in Istanbul would be forced to comply with the law. Law contains provision that the Greek Patriarch and heads of other religious denominations in Turkey may wear such garments. Attitude of Veniselos in the matter.

Wi

No. 490 Athens, December 14, 1934.

Subject: Greco-Turkish Relations.

767.68

867.4051/9

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that recent news of the introduction of legislation in the Turkish National Assembly at Ankara designed to abolish the ecclesiastical costumes of clergymen of all denominations in Turkey took the Greek Government, as well as the Greek public, completely by surprise. The shock attending the realization that the Greek Patriarch and the Greek priests in Istanbul would no longer be permitted

to

to wear their time-honored, flowing black robes was quickly followed by burning resentment that Turkey of all countries should take such a step against Greek national dignity and prestige. The thought that this was engineered as a surprise move, with no attempt at friendly consultation or explanation on the part of Greece's professed ally, was the final straw.

The Greek press burst into columns of indignation and wrath. Not for many years, and certainly not since the signing of the first Greco-Turkish Pact, has the Greek press been so outspoken against its Aegean neighbor. In addition, dramatic resolutions were passed, mass meetings of protest were planned, and the Vice-President of the Greco-Turkish League of Amity handed in his resignation. The Greek Government, reflecting accurately the state of general confusion, rushed into various cabinet meetings, drafted representations in the name of Greco-Turkish friendship and announced that it would call a meeting of Party chiefs to deliberate over the situation.

The Greek Foreign Minister appeared particularly hurt by this unkind and undeserved thrust on the part of his Turkish friends. He undoubtedly felt he should have been made acquainted with the intentions of the Turkish Government on this matter when he was in Turkey recently, and thus given the opportunity to arrange a satisfactory settlement and prepare Greek public opinion appropriately. He refrained for a number of days from

going to the Foreign Ministry, and this was interpreted in Athens as either a gesture of displeasure and wounded pride, or more seriously still, as an indication that he considered his position in the Cabinet untenable.

In the meantime, Mr. Veniselos, sojourning in his native Cretan village of Halepa, kept his own counsel, announcing merely, when it was reported that the Government would call a meeting of the Party chiefs, that he would communicate his opinion to the Government in the form of a written memorandum. The meeting of the party chiefs did not materialize, and neither did the written memorandum of Mr. Veniselos. A few days later, the Turkish Legislation was passed at Ankara with the provision, inserted as a result of the representations of the Greek Government, that the Greek Patriarch (and the heads of the other religious denominations in Turkey) would be given permission to wear the time-honored garb. Mr. Veniselos at this time sent a telegraphic statement to the Greek press advising virtual acceptance of the Turkish position. This opinion he based upon the grounds that the Turkish Government had not been inspired by any animosity but was merely carrying out its policy of a lay State; that Turkey had receded as far as might be reasonably expected in exempting the Greek Patriarch); that the Greek Orthodox costume was a matter of ecclesiastical administration which did not in any way involve the doctrine of the Church itself; and that finally an issue of this kind should not be allowed to lead to a rupture in the friendship of the two nations.

This statement had the soothing effect of a cold application to a feverish head. The Venizelist press which had been vying with the Government Press in denouncing the Turkish Government's ruthless disregard of sacred Greek traditions, and its flagrant violation of the Greek Patriarchate provisions in the Treaty of Lausanne, made an immediate about-face, hailing the Veniselos statement as the quintessence of wise, cool-headed statesmanship. The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction that the chief of the Opposition "approved of the way the Government had handled the matter." The Foreign Minister appeared also pleased, and (according to local opinion) considered Mr. Veniselos' statement, together with a soothing telegram he had received from the Turkish Foreign Minister, as sufficient justification of his "policy" to allow him to return to his duties, and to put out of his mind the alleged idea of resignation. The Pan-Refugee organization of Greece, which was at the time planning a vociferous mass meeting, felt the necessity of seeking the advice of Mr. Veniselos as to whether the meeting should be held or not, and upon receipt of telegraphic advice from Mr. Veniselos, decided not to hold the meeting. Following the statement of Mr. Veniselos, Mr. Papanastassiou also made a statement endeavoring to explain and justify the Turkish position.

Thus an atmosphere of comparative calm was evolved, and still prevails - in spite of the fact that the Opposition press is now laboring to prove that Mr. Veniselos'

statement is not to be interpreted as approval of the Government's blundering methods and policies. Meanwhile Mr. Maximos is waiting for the arrival here of the Turkish Foreign Minister (on his way to Istanbul from Geneva) in the hope of putting the final touches of settlement to this thorny affair. At the moment of writing it is not clear whether the exemption accorded the Greek Patriarch was definitive or merely in the nature of a temporary permission to wear his robes of office. This is naturally a point of considerable interest to Greece.

In all fairness to Turkey, it must be added that there are many people in Greece, even members of the Orthodox Church, who felt rather gratified at the action of the Turkish Government and deprecated the fact that the Greek Government had not itself been able to bring about this reform. These people feel that the costume of Greek priests is a useless anachronism, which compromises the intelligence and the civilization of this 20th century Greece. But, as long as the Greek peasant finds it impossible to conceive of a priest without the long, black robe, preferably a soiled one, a "vote-minded" Government will hardly have the courage to emulate Moustapha Kemal Ataturk.

As for Greek public opinion at large, it seems a fairly safe prediction that the disillusionment it has recently suffered at the hands of its trusted friend and ally across the Aegean will not soon be forgotten.

Respectfully yours,

Copy to Istanbul
Legation File
No. 710
CWA/PKC/cwr

Clayson W. Aldridge,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68/719

SEE 867.4051/11 FOR #505

FROM Greece (MacVeagh) DATED Jan.15, 1935

NAME

TO

1—1127

REGARDING: Greek reaction to the Turkish law forbidding the wearing of ecclesiastical garments.

Wi

No. 505 Athens, January 15, 1935.

Subject: Greco-Turkish Relations.

767.64

867.504/11

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In connection with this Legation's despatch No. 490 of December 14, 1934, I have the honor to refer to despatch No. 463 of the American Embassy in Istanbul, dated December 5, 1934, entitled "Law Forbidding all Ecclesiastical Garments, etc." The urgency attending the discussion and passage of the law in question, as described by Mr. Skinner, is particularly illuminating to this Legation, which has been puzzled to find an answer to the question

why

why the Greek Government was not given warning in advance and an opportunity to make its bed before it had to sleep in it. In this connection I had a long conversation with the Turkish Minister here the other day. He confirmed my impression that the storm raised in Greece over the matter was largely confined to that element in the public and the press which speaks first and thinks afterward. He stated that the Government here understood quickly that there was no discrimination involved against the Greek Minority, and any strain on Greco-Turkish relations which may have arisen from irresponsible talk has vanished with the coincidence of the calm and realistic views expressed by the Chiefs of both leading parties. He also stated categorically that the Oecumenical Patriarch would be allowed to wear his robes. But when I asked why a friendly and even allied government had not been advised beforehand of the probability of the passage of a measure bound to affect the susceptibility of its nationals, the reply I received was so voluble as to confirm my suspicions that here indeed was the rub, so far as the Greek Government was concerned. I finally made out that it was impossible to have given advance information because there was none to give, the measure having been rushed through the Turkish Parliament with every precaution that there should be the least possible discussion tending to obstruct its passage. This account of the matter seems to tally with the information furnished by Mr. Skinner. It appears that Hellas must

resign

resign herself to the fact that caprice is still one of the characteristics of her great and good Oriental friend.

Respectfully yours,

Lincoln MacVeagh.

Legation File No. 710

Copy to American Embassy, Istanbul.

LMacV/cwf

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68/720

SEE 868.00/765 FOR Tel.6, 6 p.m.

FROM Bulgaria (Sterling) DATED Mar.5, 1935

TO

NAME

1—1127

REGARDING: Revolt in Greece.

Report that Turkey is sending troops to the frontier.

720

Wi

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68/721 1/1

SEE 868.00/784 FOR Tel.111, 10 a.m.

FROM Italy (Long) DATED Mar.10, 1935

TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING:

Revolt in Greece.

Report that Turkey has sent warships to the Aegean following the occupation by the rebels of an island belonging to Turkey off the coast of Anatolia.

Wi

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WE

FS

Gray

Rome

Dated March 10, 1935

Rec'd 10:45 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

111, March 10, 10 a.m.

My 109, March 9, 1 p.m.

Newspapers today publish reports that Venizelos has proclaimed the independence of Crete, that six submarines and twenty merchant vessels have joined the revolutionaries, and that the latter have ample funds and arms for 100,000 men. Despatches are also published to the effect that the military operations in Macedonia between the Government troops and the rebels are still in suspense owing to the bad weather and that Turkey has sent warships to the Aegean following the occupation by the revolutionaries of an island belonging to Turkey off the coast of Anatolia. Titulescu is reported to have declared to the Bulgarian Minister at Bucharest the pacific intentions (*) Rumania and to have affirmed the efficacy of the Balkan Pact.

In general the despatches as published here are

confused

note 767.68

868.00/784

confused and inconclusive and various unconfirmed rumors are being circulated. A report to the effect that Athens had been bombarded has been subsequently denied.

MAM LONG

(*) Apparent omission

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68 /722

SEE 767.74/51 FOR Tel.69, 1 p.m.

FROM Geneva (Blake) DATED Mar.9, 1935

TO

NAME

1—1127

REGARDING: Concentration of Turkish troops along the Bulgarian frontier.

Substance of note from the Bulgarian Delegate to the League and of Turkish note replying thereto concerning -.Statement in Turkish note that Turkey could not view with indifference military preparations recently taken by Bulgaria on the Greek frontier.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 767.74/54 FOR memorandum

FROM State Department (Murray) DATED Mar.8, 1935

TO Near Eastern Div.

NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Concentration of Turkish troops along the Bulgarian frontier.

Comments on strengthening of Bulgarian frontier posts due to - and quotes from despatch from the Embassy in Turkey concerning importance of Thrace to Turkey in connection with this matter.

767.68/723

723

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 868.00/811 FOR #470

FROM U.S.S.R. (Wiley) DATED March 16,1935

TO NAME 1—1127 ers

REGARDING: Turkish-Greek relations.
Indications that the Turkish Embassy in Moscow had advance information of the Venizelist "Putsch."

767.68/724

lec

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68/725

SEE 868.00/860 FOR #633

FROM Turkey (Skinner) DATED May 7, 1935

TO NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING:

Revolt in Greece.

Request made by Greece of Yugoslavia and Turkey for bombing planes in accordance with Article 1 of the Balkan Pact wherein the Powers concerned "mutually guarantee security of all their frontiers".

Wi

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 868.00/863 FOR #643

FROM Turkey (Skinner) DATED May 18, 1935

TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING: Recent rebellion in Greece.

Information to the effect that Turkey was willing to supply Greece with bombs for use in airplanes in connection with -.

767.68/726

Wi

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 767.68119/881 FOR #706

FROM Turkey (Skinner) DATED July 9, 1935

TO NAME 1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Turkish-Greek relations.
During the insurrection in Greece, Turkey prevented five Greek cargo steamers from proceeding to their destinations at the request of Greek Government.

767.68/727

1e^c

No. 706 Istanbul, Turkey, July 9, 1935.

Subject: Detention of Greek Ships during the recent Insurrection, and the Turkish Government.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

767.68

Sir:

I have the honor to report the precise details in regard to incidents of unusual interest which arose during the recent insurrection in Greece, in the course of which the Turkish Government, at the request of the Hellenic Government, prevented five regularly documented Greek cargo steamers from proceeding to their several destinations. There was a good deal of comment at the time on this action by the Turkish authorities, and then discussion suddenly ceased. It may be useful to follow the course of events, as they establish a precedent to which we may have to refer at some future time.

767.68/189

time. The practical facts concern the following ships:

SS/TILEMAROS arriving from Soviet Russia; destination Savona, Italy, with a cargo of 6,000 tons of coal. Arrested at Buyukdere.

SS/KERREA arriving from Soviet Russia; destination Piraeus with a cargo of 3,050 tons of coal. Arrested at Buyukdere.

SS/CONISTRA arriving from the Turkish port of Zongouldak; destination Piraeus with a cargo of 6,134 tons of coal. Arrested at Buyukdere.

SS/FOTINI CARA arriving from Soviet Russia; destination Oran, Algeria, with a cargo of 7,200 tons of coal. Arrested at Buyukdere.

SS/ATLAS arriving from Constanza, Rumania; destination Hamburg, with a cargo of 8,447 tons of gasoline and lamp oil. Arrested at a point four miles southwest of Chanakale in the Dardanelles.

It was generally understood at the time these ships were arrested that they were owned in whole or in part by the son of Mr. Venizelos, and that their cargoes, in reality, were destined to supply the insurgent forces. However that may be, the situation was brought to the attention of the Straits Commission at the Session of March 13th, under the Presidency of the Turkish Admiral, Ali Nalay. On this occasion the British delegate, Captain Macdonald, declared that he had prepared a memorandum in regard to the ships already named and detained "in order to prevent the delivery of their cargoes to the rebel naval forces in Greece, or from being seized by these forces." In the absence of the Greek delegate it was

decided

decided that Captain Macdonald's memorandum should not be discussed until the next meeting in order that the material facts might be ascertained. However, before adjourning, the Commission expressed the desire to be informed upon the following points:

1. What were the ports of departure and the destinations of the ships in question?

2. Where were they arrested?

3. Was their arrest based upon an order from the Turkish authorities or on a request from the Greek consular authorities?

4. What were their cargoes and to whom did they belong?

5. Is it true that the ship ATLAS was arrested four miles beyond the Straits?

6. Were protests filed? If yes, against whom? Against the Turkish authorities, or others?

The next session of the Commission was held on March 18, 1935, and on this occasion the British representative, Captain Macdonald, made the following statements:

"It is my personal view that the measures taken by the Turkish Government may be looked upon as wise, as their object was to contribute to the repression of a rebellion. From this humanitarian point of view we should be grateful to Turkey. On the other hand, it is quite possible that the insurance companies interested would have refused to pay any indemnity if the cargoes of the ships had been seized by the insurgent

naval

naval forces. In any case the incident calls for our attention. There exist, moreover, the precedents such as, for example, the American War of Secession during which Great Britain observed a most strict neutrality (sic). Therefore, I refer to my memorandum and propose that (1) this question be submitted to our legal sub-committee in order that it may deliberate upon the question of whether or not there is occasion to bring the facts to the attention of the League of Nations by direct communication; or (2) merely to mention them in our next annual report; or (3) to consider that the incident calls for no action."

The French representative said: "In order to define and limit the work of the sub-committee I feel that the Commission should issue explicit instructions. I hold furthermore that there is no reason for communicating on this subject directly with the League of Nations."

Admiral Ali Kalay remarked that first of all it should be ascertained whether the measures taken respecting the Greek ships at the request of the Greek Legation were incompatible with the disposition of the Convention upon the Straits Regime.

It was finally decided that the legal sub-committee should be instructed to go into the question and at the same time the British delegate, Captain Macdonald, submitted the following memorandum:

"My attention has been directed by the local newspapers of March 8th and the following dates, to the fact that the Turkish authorities have required certain Greek ships which happened to be in the zone of the

Straits,

Straits, following their crossing from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean, to stop at the port of Istanbul and remain there under surveillance. It appears that this measure was taken on the request of the Hellenic Government and for the purpose of preventing supplies from falling into the hands of the rebels.

"I am without precise information as to whether all these ships or some of them arrested their voyage voluntarily before the Turkish authorities had proceeded to the above mentioned course. If such was the case there can be no doubt that the Hellenic Government was perfectly in its right in prescribing to its representatives here to have recourse to means which would prevent these ships from leaving the port of Istanbul or any other Turkish port where they might be.

"If, however, these ships were in transit through the Straits and desired to continue on their respective ways, it seems to be very doubtful that the Turkish authorities had the right to accede to the desire of the Greek Government in stopping the vessels. The Straits Commission has always stood out to safeguard the rights assured by the Straits Convention to vessels in transit.

"Notably in 1923 the Commission intervened with success to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the case of Greek ships illegally detained by the Turkish sanitary authorities. I am of the opinion that this question merits being examined by the legal sub-committee and that the representative of Greece should give us such information on the subject as he possesses. It is my personal opinion that this does not constitute a

case

case for formulating a protest to the Turkish authorities, but that if in the course of our investigation it is established that the vessels in transit were prevented from going on their way, it would be proper for the Straits Commission to inform the League of Nations with a view to bringing out its point of view on the subject, the important item being that however justified might be the measures taken to assure tranquillity in the Aegean Sea, we must not lose from view the fact that possibly a very dangerous precedent has been created."

On March 27, 1935, at a meeting of the Straits Commission held that day, it was stated that the Greek representative had supplied various details (given on page one of this report) in regard to the Greek vessels arrested in the Straits, whereupon Captain Macdonald observed, with regard to the decision taken during the course of the preceding session that the incident of the detention of the Greek ships be submitted to the legal sub-committee, that he was not able to share the opinion then expressed of Admiral Halay that there was no occasion for the sub-committee to examine the affair. Admiral Halay replied that he had no objection to the examination of the question by the sub-committee and only desired that the sub-committee be informed of the opinion that he had expressed.

On May 13, 1935, at the next meeting of the Straits Commission, the Italian representative said: "Since we have here a question of principle - principle of the freedom of navigation in the Straits - I ask myself whether the Turkish Government was not obliged to inform

the

the Commission of measures taken in regard to the Greek ships at the request of the Hellenic Government." The Commission received at this meeting the report of the legal sub-committee and decided to adjourn discussion of the report and the remark of the Italian representative until the next meeting. The report of the legal sub-committee is as follows:

The legal sub-committee, invited by the Commission on March 18, 1935, to prepare a report upon the question of Greek commercial ships arrested in the Straits during that month has the honor to report as follows:

1. As to the first point in the instructions given to the sub-committee, the sub-committee is of the opinion that the information communicated is sufficient.

2. Touching the second point, it considers that the Commission has been sufficiently enlightened by the indications furnished by the representatives of Greece and Turkey.

3. As to the third point, the sub-committee considers that the Commission is fully qualified to seek to inform itself on the case in question since under the terms of Article 15 of the Convention of July 24, 1923, the ascertainment of all information concerning commerce and navigation in the Straits is within its competence. It considers, moreover, that the Committee, after having regularly examined it, has no occasion to deal further with the question raised. This decision is founded upon reasons exposed in the next succeeding paragraph.

4. The sub-committee is of the opinion that, in limiting itself to police activities at the request of

a

a foreign State with respect to ships flying the flag of the said State, the Turkish Government and equally the Greek Government did not exceed their rights nor infringe upon the dispositions of the Straits Convention.

The report of the sub-committee came before the full Commission at the meeting held on June 7, 1935. At this meeting Admiral Salay said that he would be much obliged if the Italian representative would abandon the discussion of the question raised at the meeting of May 13th, on which occasion he had said that a question of principle was involved in the Greek incident, resulting from which he asked if the Turkish Government was not obliged to inform the Commission of the measures it had taken. The Italian representative replied to Admiral Salay stating that in his view the Turkish Government had not gone beyond the dispositions of the Straits Convention in taking certain police measures. Finally, Captain Macdonald, the British representative, by now taking only tepid interest in the proceedings, remarked: "In the first memorandum which I presented to the Commission on the subject of the Greek ships arrested in the Straits, I invoked the case of Greek ships detained in 1929 at Buyukdere with respect to which we addressed ourselves directly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I was of the opinion that we might take up equally the present incident without proceeding to any other démarche whatever. The legal sub-committee that we have consulted on the subject concludes, on its side, that neither the Turkish nor the Hellenic Government has exercised more than its right

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and that without infringing upon the dispositions of the Convention, and therefore there is no need to take any action. At this point the President put to a vote the conclusions of the report of the legal sub-committee which was unanimously adopted.

Just what the considerations were which finally induced all the delegates to agree that there were no objections to the arrest of regularly documented ships passing through the Straits I do not know, but, arising out of this fairly long and tedious report, is the certain fact that in case of domestic difficulties in a given country, vessels flying the flag of that country and desiring to proceed to a given destination for which they are regularly documented, may be arrested on a request from that country, as far as the Straits Commission is concerned therein.

It has been hinted to me that this question was first raised in the Commission on the personal initiative of the British delegate and that his Ambassador may have advised him to drop it — which he certainly did.

Respectfully yours,

Robert F. Skinner.

RFS:lr
710/711

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 868.00/919 FOR #880

FROM Greece (MacVeagh) DATED Oct 13, 1935.

TO NAME 1—1127

767.68/728

728

REGARDING:

Relations between Greece and Turkey.

Congratulations to General Condylis on his assumption of the Presidency of Greece under the Royalists from Kemal Ataturk.

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767.68/728

No. 880 Athens, October 13, 1935.

Subject: Congratulations to General Condylis from Kemal Ataturk.

868.00/919

767.68

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir;

In view of the anti-monarchical prejudice which the present head of the Turkish Government is supposed to entertain, and his attitude at the time of King Zog's assumption in Albania of the royal prerogative and style, it may interest the Department to learn that General Condylis has received the following telegram from Kemal Ataturk on the occasion of his elevation to the position

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of Regent (I translate from the French of the MESSAGER d'ATHENES, the semi-official foreign language organ of the now Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs):

> "I thank Your Excellency for the telegram notifying me of the formation of the Government under your exalted Presidency. It is with pleasure that I learn that so exceptional a citizen as Your Excellency has been called to the high administration of the State which is our special friend. I extend my cordial congratulations, and my sincerest hope for the successful continuance of the friendly relations which exist between our two nations and which form so happy an augury for Greece within the framework of the Balkan Pact."

In the circumstances, and as an ambiguous and eliptical form of congratulation, the above seems oriental to a degree. Almost anything can be read into it.

In this connection it may be pertinent to add that I had a long talk with the Turkish Minister here yesterday afternoon, at a time which must have been almost coincident with the receipt of the above telegram. I asked him if he could tell me how his country felt toward the idea of Restoration in Greece. Though he was in Ankara this summer, he professed ignorance of any attitude whatever on the subject on the part of his Government, stressing the fact that the form of régime adopted by Greece is wholly an internal affair. But he then went on to emphasize to such a degree the republican views of the Turkish press and people that his reply as a whole impressed me very much in the same manner as the congratulations of his chief. It would appear, therefore, that there may indeed be a rat behind the arras in this situation, which will bear watching.

Respectfully yours,

Legation File No. 800 Lincoln MacVeagh.

LMacV/cwf

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.68/729

SEE 767.00/63 FOR #816

FROM Turkey (Skinner) DATED Nov.1, 1935

TO NAME 1—1127

REGARDING: Political situation in Greece.

Conversation with the Turkish Foreign Minister who commented on - and stated that the Turks had at one time desired that Veniselos be elected President of Greece.

729

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DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 867.404/239 FOR #896

FROM Turkey (Shaw) DATED Jan 29, 1936.
TO NAME 1—1127

REGARDING:

Relations between Greece and Turkey as involved in the election of the Patriarch of Constantinople. Report on -.

767.68/730

730

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767.68

Istanbul, Turkey, January 29, 1936.

No. 886

Subject: Election of the Patriarch of Constantinople.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that on January 18, 1936, the Metropolitan of Heraclea was elected Oecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople under the name of Benjamin I. He succeeds Photius II whose death was reported in this Embassy's despatch No. 879, of January 3, 1936. For nearly ten years the Phanar Church has been enjoying a period of relative quiet - at least, when compared with the agitation characteristic of the period from the end of the war until about 1926. The election of Photius II in the year 1929 passed off quietly and during his incumbency the Patriarchate seemed to become more stable and dignified,

even

even if it did not widen its power. However, the present election was reminiscent of "olden times" as it was accompanied by considerable agitation.

The day following the death of Photius II, the Chief of Police of Istanbul visited the Patriarchate and inquired who the candidates for the vacant position were. He was told that there were thirteen Metropolitans, members of the Holy Synod, anyone of whom might be elected. Unfortunately, within a few days the Greek press began to refer to the inevitability of the election of the Metropolitan of Chalcedon. This forty-two year old prelate, a protégé of Photius II, was known to have the support of seven of the other members of the Holy Synod. However, the remaining five Metropolitans, namely those of Dereos, Imbros, Sardis, Heliopolis and Laodicea considered themselves each a candidate.

In Turkish Government circles the candidacy of the Metropolitan of Chalcedon was apparently not regarded with favor. He was one of the most active protestants against the law prohibiting the wearing of ecclesiastic robes and has shown in many ways his consideration for the rights of the Patriarchate and the Greek community in Istanbul. A few days after the visit of the Chief of Police to the Patriarchate two prominent members of the Greek community were summoned to the presence of this officer. He reminded them that the Turkish Government was only tolerating the presence of the Patriarch in Istanbul, largely because of its desire to keep on friendly relations with the Government in Athens. He said

that

that in view of this "generous attitude of the Turkish Government" the Holy Synod should show its "gratitude" by electing the Metropolitan of Imbros as Patriarch. The two Greeks replied that by the ratification of the Treaty of Lausanne the Patriarchate had become a purely religious organization and had lost all temporal power and that for this reason it was no longer possible for the Turkish Government to intervene in the election of the Oecumenical Patriarch. However, the Chief of Police insisted that his Government's point of view must be heeded and took them to see the Vali. The latter repeated the same message given by the Chief of Police, except that he did not insist upon the exclusive candidature of the Metropolitan of Imbros, but declared that anyone of the three Metropolitans who had recently been in Ankara to negotiate regarding the matter of the ecclesiastical dress might be chosen. These Metropolitans were the Metropolitan of Imbros, Miron and Heliopolis. The two Greek laymen carried this message to the Holy Synod. It caused considerable concern, as may be imagined, and the Holy Synod sent two of its own members to interview the Vali. He repeated to the Metropolitans themselves the same message that he had given to the two Greek laymen.

On top of the above "advice" from the Turkish Government a telegram was received at the last minute from the Government at Athens suggesting that the Metropolitan of Imbros be elected. As it was known that the Greek Government had not originally favored the Metropolitan of Imbros, it was assumed that the telegram had been sent at the suggestion of, and as a courtesy to, the Turkish Government.

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The result was to create tremendous confusion in the Holy Synod. The Metropolitan of Chalcedon, supported by his seven followers, contended that neither the Greek nor the Turkish Governments had any right to interfere and that the Patriarchate should take an independent stand. They considered the Metropolitan of Imbros to be too weak to be a suitable Patriarch and too much inclined to accede to the desires of the Turkish Government. They feared that his election would mean the end of all independence of the Patriarch. On the other hand, the five remaining members of the Holy Synod, though they failed to unite behind the Metropolitan of Imbros, were apparently more inclined toward the inauguration of a regime of greater cooperation with the Turks and for this reason they opposed the Metropolitan of Chalcedon. A large portion of the Greek colony apparently agreed with the latter opinion and they seem to have been supported by the Greek Government.

On the day of the election a considerable crowd collected outside the church vociferously demanding the election of the Metropolitan of Imbros. They were undoubtedly incited by agents in the pay of the Turkish Government. It is the custom for the Holy Synod to meet unofficially in the Council room upstairs and in the rear of the Patriarchal Church of St. George to choose three candidates for the Patriarchate, and then to descend to the alter where the Holy Spirit is invoked to assist them in casting their ballots into the urn for the final choice. On this occasion, the morning of January 13th, the crowd which had gathered outside and behind the church near to the Council room became

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so impatient and vociferous in its cries during the preliminary assembly that it was necessary for two Metropolitans to appear on an outside balcony to remind the people that the Synod could not be influenced by them in selecting the Patriarch. One of them said that while the people were thinking only in terms of the present position of the church, the Holy Synod was thinking in terms of centuries. He said that they should think of the two thousand years during which the church had been fighting for them, and of the Patriarchs who had lost their lives so that the Greeks of Constantinople could enjoy being Greeks and could continue to speak their own language. The crowd apparently was not content with these inspired words and continued its cries so that the Metropolitans appeared again and this time promised that the wishes of the people would be considered by the Holy Synod.

A few minutes later an unusual performance started. The crowd behind the church became aware of action inside the building. The members of the Holy Synod were seen to be moving with the greatest speed down an inner staircase in the direction of the altar. A race was started. The crowd surged around the church and through the front entrance to the nave, but they were too late. The Holy Synod had acted with speed. When the people arrived on the scene they found that the votes had been cast and the results were being announced.

All the candidates for Patriarch had been chosen from among the followers of the Metropolitan of Chalcedon. The members of this group, except for the Metropolitan of Kiron,

who

who voted for himself, had voted for the Metropolitan of Heraclea. He received seven votes, including the one cast by himself. Five votes were cast in blank. When the crowd heard that the Metropolitan of Imbros had not even been one of the candidates there were loud cries of "unworthy" and general disorder ensued. In the midst of the confusion the Patriarch elect was escorted to the sanctuary where his patriarchal robes were placed upon him. However, when he returned and the enthronment service was begun, the commotion in the crowd proved too much and the ceremony had to be postponed.

The election of the Metropolitan of Heraclea was decided upon by the majority party because the Metropolitan of Chalcedon wished to gain time, hoping that it might be possible later for him to become Patriarch without so much opposition. The new Patriarch is about sixty-five years of age, he has had two strokes of paralysis, which have affected his speech and the use of one arm. Consequently his physical state is considered such that the Metropolitan of Chalcedon may look forward to an early opportunity for another election, when his candidature may not be so strongly opposed. Furthermore, while Benjamin I sits on the patriarchal throne the Metropolitan of Chalcedon is really the controlling force at the Phanar.

It is believed that the last Patriarch, Photius II, by his dignified conduct and bearing raised the local prestige of the Patriarchate. If the Phanar should follow a policy of cooperation with the Turkish Government its present status might continue indefinitely. However, it

cannot

cannot be predicted what may be the effect of the recent election and the events preceding it. The Turkish officials have paid courtesy calls and sent the usual messages of congratulation to the new Patriarch. If the Metropolitan of Chalcedon, who is comparatively young and extremely ambitious, is desirous of placating the opposition to his eventual election as Oecumenical Patriarch, he may cause the Phanar to assume a friendly attitude toward the Turkish Government. On the other hand, there is a possibility that he may continue his intransigeant attitude. Whatever happens the Turkish Government will not risk arousing bad feeling in Greece which would certainly result from any radical action against the Patriarchate, but there are many indirect ways by which the displeasure of the Turkish authorities can make itself felt.

Respectfully yours,

C. Rowland Shaw
Chargé d' Affaires ad interim.

Copy sent to Legation, Athens, Greece.

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840.4

Central File: Decimal File 767.68, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Turkey And Greece, Jan. 15, 1930 - Nov. 10, 1939. January 15, 1930 - November 10, 1939. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111386567%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 21 June 2025.